

SPEAKERS | WORKSHOPS | DISPLAYS | PERFORMANCES

100! YEARS **U of A 2008**
SIGNATURE EVENT

2008 JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 1 INTERNATIONAL WEEK

ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

100 YEARS & BEYOND



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA
INTERNATIONAL

Contact us

International Centre HUB
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HUB Mall
Convenient Campus Shopping



Canadian International Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement international



THE GATEWAY



2008 JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 1
INTERNATIONAL WEEK

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DR. SIMA SAMAR
Chairwoman, Independent Afghanistan
Human Rights Commission

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING
MYER HOROWITZ THEATRE

SIMA SAMAR

**AFGHANISTAN
SIX YEARS
AFTER THE TALIBAN**

Welcome from Eric P. Newell
University of Alberta Chancellor



DR. PAUL FARMER
Physician-anthropologist, co-founder of Partners
in Health and author of *Pathologies of Power*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING
MYER HOROWITZ THEATRE

PAUL FARMER

GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY



JODY WILLIAMS
Nobel Peace Prize Winner
for her campaign to ban landmines

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING
MYER HOROWITZ THEATRE

**JODY
WILLIAMS**

**AN INDIVIDUAL'S IMPACT
ON SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL CHANGE**



JEFFREY SACHS
Director of the Earth Institute, Special
Advisor to UN Secretary General Ban
Ki-Moon and author of *The End of Poverty*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING
MYER HOROWITZ THEATRE

JEFFREY SACHS

**COMMON WEALTH:
ECONOMICS FOR A CROWDED PLANET**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT AUGUSTANA

Augustana Campus celebrates its international students and award-winning international programs as part of International Week.

The keynote lectures will be webcast to Augustana, and other events will highlight Augustana's international reach.

For full event details at Augustana, visit
WWW.AUGUSTANA.CA/IWEEK.

MORE DETAILS AT

HIGHLIGHTS

ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES 100 YEARS & BEYOND

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

12:00 NOON - 12:50 PM
STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING SUB STAGE

OPENING CEREMONIES



ABRA WHITNEY
Newfoundland singing sensation

NUNTA

Alin Rogoz's local multicultural troupe combines Romani and Latino rhythms



FIREFLY THEATRE
Edmonton's only aerial theatre performance company

SWING-OUT EDMONTON

Join dance coaches and International House residents as they jive to Nunta's Big Band



FIESTACUBANA
Casino-style Salsa, Rueda, Salsa Suelta, Soh, Rumba, Mambo and Cha Cha Cha

JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 1

RUTHERFORD SOUTH LIBRARY FOYER
MONDAY - THURSDAY 8:00AM - 10:00PM
FRIDAY 8:00AM - 6:00PM
SATURDAY 9:00AM - 6:00PM
SUNDAY 11:00AM - 10:00PM

BEYOND INDIGO: THE CREATIVE JOURNEY OF NIKE OKUNDAYE

An exhibition of work by one of the few internationally known Nigerian women artists. Trained as a weaver, dyer and batik maker, Nike uses a variety of media to express themes from her life and Yoruba culture.



NIKE OKUNDAYE
Textile artist and founder and director of the Nike Centre for Arts and Culture

JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1

10:00AM - 4:00PM
TORY BUSINESS ATRIUM

GET INVOLVED! A GLOBAL AF-FAIR

An information fair featuring various organizations that work locally and internationally towards "addressing global challenges" with information on how you can get involved.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 (7:30PM)

STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING MYER HOROWITZ THEATRE

TICKETS \$10 ADVANCE/\$12 AT DOOR AVAILABLE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AND SUB INFO BOOTH

INTERNATIONAL WEEK CONCERT

FOR LOVE OF THE WORLD



BURDON

FOR THE LOVE OF FAMILY

Burdon, from Lviv, Ukraine, entertain with traditional tunes, rural ritual songs, old ballads and cheerful dances of Ukraine, Hungary and Romania.

FOR THE LOVE OF A TREE,
SHE WENT OUT ON A LIMB.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE SEA,
SHE ROCKED THE BOAT.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE EARTH,
SHE DUG DEEPER.

FOR THE LOVE OF COMMUNITY,
SHE MENDED FENCES.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE STARS,
SHE LET HER LIGHT SHINE.

FOR THE LOVE OF SPIRIT,
SHE NURTURED HER SOUL.

FOR THE LOVE OF A GOOD TIME,
SHE SOWED SEEDS OF HAPPINESS.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GODDESS,
SHE DREW DOWN THE MOON.

FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE,
SHE MADE COMPOST.

FOR THE LOVE OF A GOOD MEAL,
SHE GAVE THANKS.

FOR THE LOVE OF FAMILY,
SHE RECONCILED DIFFERENCES.

FOR THE LOVE OF CREATIVITY,
SHE ENTERTAINED NEW POSSIBILITIES.

FOR THE LOVE OF HER ENEMIES,
SHE SUSPENDED JUDGMENT.

FOR THE LOVE OF HERSELF,
SHE ACKNOWLEDGED HER WORTH.

AND THE WORLD WAS RICHER FOR HER.

— CHARLOTTE TALL MOUNTAIN

HOSTED BY CBC'S RON WILSON

FOR THE LOVE OF COMMUNITY

The voice of Edmonton AM hosts for the third year in a row.

THE HONOUR SONG PROJECT

FOR THE LOVE OF THE EARTH

Karly Coleman, Marilyn Dumont, Mother Peace (Kristin Smith) and Anna Marie Sewell re-imagine Aboriginal honour song poetry into a stage performance.

NUNTA

FOR THE LOVE OF CREATIVITY

With one foot in the East and the other in the West, this local multicultural band enchants with tales of gypsy caravans traveling through Spanish lands.

SWING-OUT EDMONTON

FOR THE LOVE OF A GOOD TIME

This U of A student group is gonna make you hep cats get up and jive!

FIESTACUBANA

FOR THE LOVE OF THE SEA

Jennifer and Orlando Martinez Kindelan astound with their Casino-style Salsa, Rueda, Salsa Suelta, Soh, Rumba, Mambo and Cha Cha Cha.

JOE ZHAO

FOR THE LOVE OF SPIRIT

Experience the dizi (bamboo flute), bawu, wulusi and pao.

IZUBA

FOR THE LOVE OF STARS

Izuba performs graceful dances unique to Rwanda.

MARCUS FUNG

FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE

Marcus plays for the power of music and positive change.

FIREFLY THEATRE

FOR THE LOVE OF A TREE

Edmonton's only aerial theatre performance company, Firefly features three talented aerialists: Kim Precht (rope); Lisa Bentz (aerial silks); and Michalene Giesbrecht (trapeze).

BHARATANATYAM DANCE

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GODDESS

Bharatanatyam is the embodiment of music in its visual form and the most ancient of India's classical dance traditions.

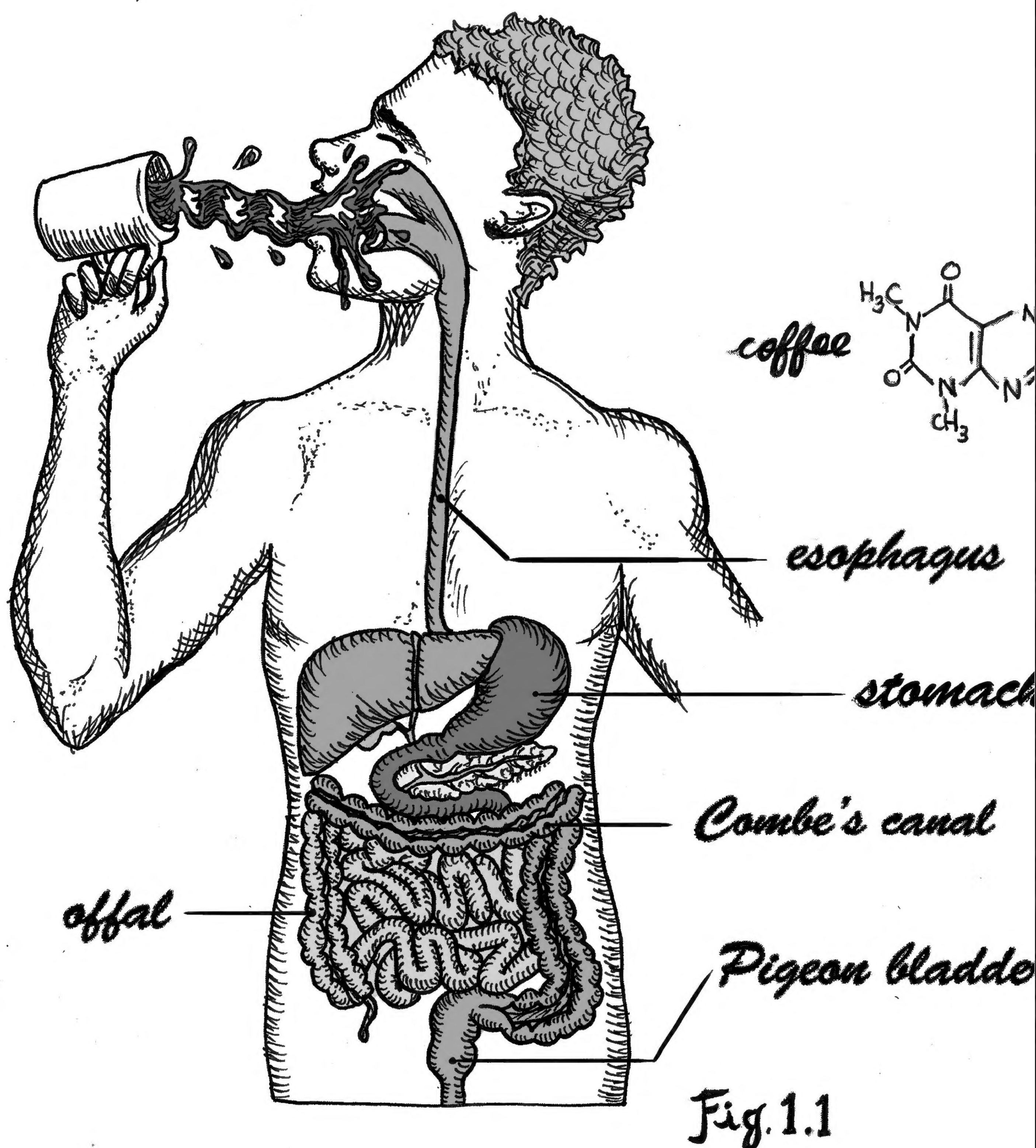
FINALE

AND THE WORLD WAS RICHER FOR HER

International House residents join our performers on-stage to send us home with blessings from around the world.



you gotta keep 'em



caffeinated

You see them everywhere on campus during midterms and finals: students sitting in cubicles in the library or at tables in SUB, exasperated, furiously cramming for exams, surrounded by little styrofoam cups or aluminum cans that keep them going through the day. Apart perhaps from alcohol, there's no other substance or product as ubiquitous and integral to the student experience as caffeine; most students can't even go a day without consuming something with caffeine in it. But most do so without knowing much about the effect that that large double-double has on their bodies.

But where student apathy prevails, so does espresso-sipping investigationalism—so the *Gateway* is here to serve up a refillable mug of everything you never knew about everyone's favourite pick-me-up, from what it actually does to the body to how much money it makes the SU.

WRITTEN BY JONN KMECH AND JEN HUGYEN

ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN ALSTON || PHOTOS BY SAM BROOKS AND LAUREN STIEGLITZ

Chemistry is the key to a healthy relationship

When it's 3am the night before your final and you're guzzling down grandes, the physiological effects of caffeine on your brain probably take second place in your thoughts to your ever-expanding knowledge of 18th-century agrarian business practices. But there's a scientific reason why you can stay alert while reading all those supply-and-demand graphs.

According to Jonathan Cena, a PhD candidate in the Department of Pharmacology (and strong advocate of Venti Vanilla Americanos from Starbucks), "Pharmacologically, the main effect of caffeine is to inhibit adenosine receptors."

Adenosine normally works to inhibit the action of neurons in the brain: "if you block that signal, it can increase the activity of the central nervous system," Cena explained. Counterintuitive as it seems, caffeine actually decreases blood flow to the brain by constricting cerebral blood vessels—an effect that can help relieve headaches, which is why caffeine is included in migraine medication.

Chemically, caffeine is part of the methylxanthine family of stimulant compounds, along with theophylline (found in tea), and theobromine (found in chocolate). But while all students understand and exploit the fact that caffeine is a mental stimulant, fewer students understand that caffeine actually has systemic effects within the human body. As well as increasing your heart rate, caffeine will dilate your lungs, and it also has effects on your metabolism and kidneys.

"It releases fatty acids from adipose [fat] tissue," explained Dana Wilkinson, research coordinator of the Human Nutrition Research Unit at the U of A and a registered dietician. "In that sense, it could potentially help with

weight loss, though that is not a good way to lose weight at all. It also affects the kidneys in that it's linked to dehydration."

If it seems like you need to consume more coffee than your roommate to get a buzz, science has an answer for this as well.

"There's two phenotypes in terms of caffeine metabolism," Cena noted. "One type of person can metabolize caffeine quickly, so they'll get the effects much less, but the people that can't metabolize caffeine that fast will experience heightened effects."

He stated that on average, caffeine's half-life in the body is around six hours, and peaks in the blood around 30–45 minutes after consumption—"so you probably want to take it about a half hour before you want to study or take an exam," he explained.

Coffee before your midterm can have more long-term beneficial effects than just increasing your cognitive alertness and GPA. Wilkinson said it's been demonstrated that the highest coffee drinkers also have the lowest risk of type-II diabetes, while Cena pointed out that there is a decrease in cancer rates amongst frequent coffee consumers. But they both emphasized that this may or may not be due solely to caffeine.

"Coffee has thousands of compounds and a lot of antioxidants that are generally very beneficial, whereas caffeine is just caffeine," she said.

With all these positive health benefits, you may be inclined to start downing the cups of joe at a frantic pace. But everyone knows what it's like to get the coffee jitters. People tend to forget that caffeine is a drug and has side effects just like other substances if you overindulge.

"You'll start feeling adverse effects above 500–600mg of caffeine," Cena said. "Two

to three Starbucks Grandes results in caffeineism, as you start getting jittery and feeling nauseous.

"There is a lethal dose of caffeine; that is around 10g, or about 28 Starbucks Grandes. At these high concentrations, it inhibits another receptor, and people die because they go into convulsions. Typically, this wouldn't be from coffee, though, but that can happen in pill form."

Caffeine pills such as NoDoz are readily available today, though they tend to be used for sports performance rather than basic energizers. As a source of highly concentrated caffeine, overuse of such pills can more easily result in caffeineism and further detrimental effects.

Despite the potential for overconsumption, many students will admit to the need for a cup of coffee to start functioning for the day. According to both researchers, if you *think* you're addicted to caffeine, you're probably right.

"It's not as addictive as street drugs, but like drug addicts, people can be both psychologically and physically dependent," Cena said, adding that if you're having withdrawal symptoms like headaches, you're probably physically dependent.

Luckily, according to Wilkinson, it isn't difficult to kick the habit, explaining that it only takes "about 24–48 hours for caffeine withdrawal to be fine."

Caffeine has been implicated in other medical problems as well. A new study published this week in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* reports that an intake of just 200mg of caffeine per day, or two cups of coffee, resulted in twice the miscarriage rate amongst pregnant women than in expecting women who didn't consume caffeine. This echoes the results of previous studies, though the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has no official guidelines for caffeine use during pregnancy.

Overall, both of the researchers agreed that moderation is the key.

"Studies have shown that long-term use of caffeine is not detrimental," Cena stated.

As for a beneficial threshold, Wilkinson observed that it all depends on where you get your coffee. She recommends two to three cups of home-brewed coffee as a maximum per day, and less if you're drinking more heavily caffeinated brands like Starbucks.

"Each cup has about 100mg [of caffeine], but it does depend on where you get your coffee," she said.

Mixing taurine and caffeine ain't no bull

The increased popularity of energy drinks has led to mixed messages within the media as to their safety, particularly due to the combination of caffeine and taurine, the additive that allows Red Bull to "give you wings." Cena explained that while evidence on taurine was lacking, so far there's nothing to suggest that it's a dangerous chemical, provided that you don't go overboard.



"There is a lethal dose of caffeine; that is around 10g, or about 28 Starbucks Grandes. At these high concentrations, it inhibits another receptor, and people die because they go into convulsions. Typically, this wouldn't be from coffee, though, but that can happen in pill form."

JONATHAN CENA
PhD candidate, Pharmacology

What's the most caffeine you've ever consumed? Join the discussion in this week's online features section at www.thegatewayonline.ca



CAFFEINE IS COFFEE’S BEST FRIEND, but how exactly do the two find that harmonious balance? Java Jive’s Michael Ould explained the process to us.

Coffee beans, imported from various places between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn, are stored in barrels for freshness. The type of coffee you can buy is highly dependent on the seasonal changes in the climate in those areas.

The coffee beans are added to a roaster according to colour and size, and this determines the grade of the coffee.

"Once we roast the coffee, a chemical process called pyrolysis takes place, and that's the chemical change from green to roasted.

It occurs by time and temperature," Ould explained, adding that emperatures inside the roaster can reach up to 400F.

While the heating process takes place, the coffee beans expand and their natural moisture is drawn to the surface. When the beans start to crack, the "roast master" judges the extent of the roast for both dark and gourmet blends and whether they are ready to be cooled down. The beans are then moved into a cooler where a reverse air stream is sent through the beans to decrease the temperature.

"Once we stop the roast, it cools, it's ready to be packaged and can be sent out to stores."

"Taurine is under-studied right now, but the combination of caffeine and taurine show increased alertness in studies on number recall and reflexes. As well, it has been shown to increase heart rate and stroke volume," Cena explained.

"If you look at the literature in science, they're hailing energy drinks. Everyone says there's nothing wrong with them—though some of these studies are a little bit biased and have been funded by Red Bull. But right now, there isn't a lot of evidence that taurine and caffeine at those doses is bad for you."

Still, while energy drinks may be safe to consume, that doesn't mean they're nutritious.

"Basically, it's just sugar and caffeine you're getting," Wilkinson noted. "Those calories aren't helping you at all, as there's no nutrient value. In an apple, there's a lot of sugar and calories, but a lot of nutrition too, and you don't get that from energy drinks."

Another trend among students these days is mixing energy drinks with alcohol. While there have been mixed reports on the subject, Cena said that the practice has not been proven to be dangerous—a recent study showed that the biggest risk of mixing the two is that it results in an impaired ability to recognize how drunk you are, leading to more injuries—but emphasized a need for caution amongst his enthusiasm on the subject.

"Studies have been done on mixing energy drinks with alcohol, but the main bad effect right now is that the combination is a diuretic, and it can rapidly dehydrate you, so you should be drinking water with your vodka Red Bulls."

There's a reason they call it 'black gold'

With so much demand for caffeinated products on campus, this market becomes one of the most significant profit generators for the community's economy. The U of A campus is home to over 25 shops that sell coffee or tea as a major menu item, on top of countless other vendors that provide caffeinated products such as pop and chocolate.

Paving the way for the proliferation of coffee outlets on campus, Java Jive, an Edmonton-based specialty coffee provider, opened its first store in HUB Mall in 1976, filling a void in the food and beverage market previously unrecognized at the U of A. Michael Ould, the President of Java Jive, explained

Library as a 24/7 study space, and the nearest thing to a coffee shop at 3am is the Macs by Hudsons on Campus," Gamble says. "I think there's a lot more room for diverse operations, maybe not during the daytime, but for these 24/7 study spaces and for areas on campus that don't have many operations, like Chem East and the EAS area or that general vicinity."

The Students' Union currently owns and operates Cram Dunk, located in the Students' Union Building, as well as Dewey's in the old Powerplant. Additional vendors including Tim Hortons and Expressos Coffee Co are also currently managed by Aramark through their contract with the SU. As Gamble points out, these SU services have a history of taking in a high amount of revenue each year, but it might not necessarily be linked to caffeinated beverages.

"Cram Dunk consistently, year over year, makes a profit for the SU. It never hasn't made a profit. Dewey's in its first year of operations is sort of lagging behind, but we've seen sales grow in that area just as people get to know the space," Gamble said.

"As for growth of sales in the caffeine area for our brands, we really haven't seen that much growth in terms of tea [and] coffee over the last couple years. It's been fairly consistent year to year."

While Cram Dunk makes a yearly profit close to six figures, more detailed financial information would not be disclosed. Statistics on sales and revenue for privately operated coffee outlets, including Tim Hortons and Java Jive, aren't available to the public.

Coffee and the student experience go a long way back. While beverage selection has expanded and marketing has increased exponentially, the social aspect of drinking coffee has remained a reflection of the demands on a student's schedule.

"Things have changed a lot on campus since those early days, the heady days, when education at the University was more than it is today. There was more time for camaraderie and time for the thinkers to sit around drinking coffee, and professors and students would get together," Ould recalled.

"Unfortunately today, most students have to have a full-time job to go to the University, and they don't spend as much time on campus as they did in the '70s and mid-'80s."

“Cram Dunk consistently, year over year, makes a profit for the SU. It never hasn’t made a profit.”

EAMONN GAMBLE
SU VP (Operations & Finance)

The amount of caffeine in your favorite beverages varies considerably between products. Here’s a breakdown of how much is present in some popular commercial brews.

Type of Food/Beverage	Caffeine content (mg)
Plain, brewed coffee (8oz/235mL)	95
Instant coffee (8oz/235mL)	62
Espresso (1oz)	64
Starbucks coffee grande (16oz/435mL)	330
Starbucks coffee venti (20–24oz/591–710mL)	415
Brewed Black tea (8oz/235mL)	47
Brewed Green tea (8oz/235mL)	30–50
Starbucks tazo chai tea latte (12oz/235mL)	75
Coca-Cola Classic (12oz/355mL)	35
Pepsi (12oz/355mL)	38
Mountain Dew (12oz/355mL)	54
Red Bull (8.3oz/245mL)	76
Full Throttle (16oz/473mL)	144
Monster Energy (16oz/473mL)	160
Rock Star (16oz/473mL)	160
Hershey’s chocolate bar (1.55oz/44g)	9
Extra Strength Excedrin (2 tablets)	133
NoDoz Maximum Strength caffeine pills (1 tablet)	200

that the University acted as a testing ground for their coffee ventures, which eventually turned into a long-term contract.

"We are one of the originals in the gourmet coffee industry, in particular in Edmonton," Ould said. "I was working for the University with a joint appointment between the University and the university hospital, and my travels took me around campus a lot. One of the things I noticed was the number of vending machines and the lineups at these vending machines for this horrible product they called coffee."

Knowing that the quality of vending-machine coffee was sub-par, Ould decided to find a location for his shop on campus—and with two more campus shops currently in operation, the move has proved successful.

"It didn't take long for word to spread across campus that there was this unique little store over there [in HUB], and it really took about three months before we had lineups of about 250 people, which meant we had to change how we operated quickly because one coffee machine was not going to do it."

While Java Jive entered the market almost 30 years ago, Ould sees the competition between major coffee companies such as Starbucks and Tim Hortons starting to retrench. However, according to Students' Union Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Eamonn Gamble, the demand for coffee shops remains unsaturated at the U of A. He points to the recent renovations being done to buildings on campus and how they should be accompanied by an increase in services providing caffeinated beverages.

"I don't think there's a saturation in the market at all, especially with the opening of Cameron

Yet in Gamble's view, while the circumstances surrounding caffeine consumption may have changed, it's coming back into focus as a popular choice for students.

"[The] competition in university is a lot greater than it used to be; the time commitment needed for these classes is greater. Because of that, education is getting more expensive, so students need more money to fund their education, so they need to take part-time jobs during the school year," Gamble said.

"All of these factors combining together doesn't allow the committed student to go out and booze as much on a Thursday or Wednesday night as they may have 5–10 years ago. A byproduct of that is that they need to work on less sleep and less relaxation, so caffeine has kind of become the replacement for sleep for the average student."

With its benefits, detriments, and place in popular university culture, caffeine remains the drug of choice for the student body. As Gamble observes, caffeine and its various beverages are hard to miss on the U of A campus.

"The best evidence I can see, walking around SUB at any point during the day, [is that] I don't think there's many tables not accompanied with a caffeine product and an over-caffeinated student, so I think that speaks for itself."

Are you on your 27th Starbucks Grande and about to crash? Be sure to check out next Thursday's feature, where we investigate the effects of sleep, studying, and fatigue on the student body.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Rambo

Directed by Sylvester Stallone
Starring Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz, and Paul Schultz
Opens Friday

Remembered fondly for his memorable roles as Sgt Joe Bomowski in the maternal gunfire romp *Stop Or My Mom Will Shoot!* and Lincoln Hawk in the quintessential arm-wrestling epic *Over the Top*, Sylvester Stallone has a special place in the hearts of Americans for his willingness to star in more absurd bullshit than the average Academy-Award-nominated actor. But that will all change with this reprisal of his breakout character John Rambo in this third sequel to *First Blood*.

Unfortunately, Rambo has matured somewhat since he first singlehandedly took on the Vietcong 25 years ago. Back on active duty on the Thai-Burmese border, the middle-aged action hero now wages a one-man war against the goddamn cats that keep digging around in his flower garden, and won't rest until the paper boy who forgot to leave his Sunday morning edition has met cold justice. Haunted by flashbacks of being tortured and interrogated at a particularly awkward dinner party, this battle-hardened veteran will ensure that any Charlies that live under his roof will abide by his rules, by any means necessary, including the use of rocket launchers and restricting access to the car on Friday nights.



My Shaky Jane

With Eamon McGrath and the Wild Dogs and Lovertine
Saturday, 26 January at 8pm
The Velvet Underground

Known for their energetic live shows and ardour for women with light-induced epilepsy, Toronto's *My Shaky Jane* hits the Velvet Underground this week with their catchy combination of '60s pop and '70s rock. The group released their debut album *Oh! The Pretty Things* this past year, and the band has started to get attention from Canadian college radio stations.

The disc's artwork features an attractive, nude blond woman with strategically placed hands and a come-hither look resting in the immediate path of a trolley, making the band somewhat like a modern-day Snidely Whiplash, complete with mustache-twirling and evil snickering. Just don't show her a strobe light.

Break Forth Canada 2008

Featuring Third Day and Mercy Me
Runs 25-27 January
Shaw Conference Centre

Spreading the good news about Jesus to an estimated 15 000 attendees, this three-day Christian conference features over 160 classes and more than 20 different workshops. The convention also features several prominent Christian rock bands, such as Mercy Me and Third Day. The latter group has won multiple Grammy awards, as well as several "Dove Awards," which are the Christian-rock equivalent of a Grammy. Besides releasing a chronology of their past five years of music, Third Day also released a Christmas album this past year, marking the first time a Christmas album has been made by a actual Christian group, rather than 'N Sync or the Barenaked Ladies.

JOHN KMECH
Also featured on the rest of this page



A monster mash of brilliant marketing

The actors in JJ Abrams's mysterious *Cloverfield* sound off about the movie, its publicity, and 9/11

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In the normal course of action during any monster movie, the beast always takes center stage, destroying buildings, blowing things up, and generally running amok while the mosquito-like aircraft buzz around and annoy it to no end and the ant-like humans flee in fear. In most creature features, these humans are forgettable, their sole purpose being to run, scream, and get eaten or tossed around.

But JJ Abrams, producer of *Lost*, set out from the beginning to make *Cloverfield* a different kind of monster movie, and as a result, the young, relatively unknown actors in the lead roles said they wanted the audience to identify with their characters on a personal level.

"I think that you can have this really emotional experience watching the characters deal with this really catastrophic situation," remarks Michael Stahl-David, who plays Rob, the main character in the film and whose going-away party is crashed by the emergence of the beast. "While, at the same time, [you can be] entertained by the fact that it's a monster, and there's this guy behind the camera making wisecracks."

"You feel like you're going through this ride as this group of characters," adds Odette Yustman, who portrays Beth, Rob's love interest in the film. "You feel like they're showing you real emotions. I was really glad that we were able

to portray that."

Those organic emotions drawn up among the characters by the destruction of New York have prompted comparisons to the feelings of the people on the streets during 9/11. For Stahl-David, who works in New York, the emotions were palpable enough to affect him as shooting took place.

"I think it speaks more to today's generation. The Internet plays such a huge part in our lives. It only makes sense to market [Cloverfield] that way."

JESSICA LUCAS
LILLY IN CLOVERFIELD

"I remember when I was doing the phone call scene where my mom calls me, and I have to tell her that Jason died," Stahl-David notes solemnly. "And I thought, 'Wow, a lot of people actually had to have this phone call on that day.'"

However, while Yustman realized the film's potential gravity, she says that it wasn't the filmmakers' or actors' purpose to dredge up memories about the terrorist attacks.

"We understand that there are similarities, but those were not our intentions at all. This is a complete fantasy movie, and it's about a huge monster that attacks New York City."

With the mystery of that creature at the center of the film's masterfully discreet marketing strategy, the film took advantage of the public's thirst for information on the *Cloverfield* monster. The actors all felt that the extensive online advertising and word-of-mouth buzz would result in the movie acting as a pioneer in a new age of cinematic publicity.

"I think it speaks more to today's generation. The Internet plays such a huge part in our lives. It only makes sense to market it that way," explains Jessica Lucas, who plays Lily in the film.

"It's cool and interesting how much the fans become part of the advertising. I mean, the message board becomes such a huge part of promoting the movie. And these are just the people who are excited for it," Stahl-David adds.

That connection with the fans from the beginning allows for a much more immersive experience, one where the viewer can relate to the characters and feel distress for their plight rather than just see them as expendable. In Stahl-David's view, this particular monster movie centers on a very basic human moral.

"I guess the message, if anything, is that when something terrible happens, what's most important to you becomes clear, and the rest of the petty stuff drops away."

Cloverfield offers a dizzying but genuine thrill ride

filmreview

Cloverfield

Now Playing
Directed by Matt Reeves
Starring Michael Stahl-David, Jessica Lucas, and Odette Yustman

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

While gigantic monsters kicking New York's ass never really gets old for the cinema-going crowd, there's been a lack of originality in the genre within recent years, and the resulting flicks have been a mixed bag at best. Peter Jackson remade *King Kong* to critical acclaim and Academy appreciation, while Roland Emmerich's rendition of *Godzilla* is best remembered for its ferocious awfulness.

Enter JJ Abrams, producer of hit TV show *Lost*, with his pet project, *Cloverfield*, a movie well known for its clandestine advertising campaign and not much else. Having set out to make the quintessential American monster, Abrams' production succeeds in both living up to the hype of its marketing and crafting a unique, though flawed, experience that

manages to be about more than just the beast itself.

Shot entirely in documentary, hand-held camera style, the film begins with a surprise going away party in New York for Rob (Michael Stahl-David), who's taking a job in Japan. The ongoing gossip and drama among the party's youth is interrupted by an earthquake and a huge explosion in downtown New York. After seeing the head of the Statue of Liberty get tossed against a building and settle down next to them, it's non-stop running as the group tries to escape the monster and save their friends.

From the start of the action to the finale, *Cloverfield* feels more like a motion simulator than a movie. You briefly get glimpses of the monster then are suddenly moving down another tunnel, fleeing to an imagined safety. For anyone that gets motion sickness, it may be a good idea to bring an airplane bag and a handful of Dramamine to this movie.

However, *Cloverfield* really couldn't have been filmed any other way and still be as effective, as the perspective is crucial in making the story seem immediately relevant. You only see what the characters see, and in our current cultural zeitgeist, where everything is watched by everyone on YouTube, seeing a first-hand account


makes it feel that much more real and terrifying to us. A film like this wouldn't have been nearly as effective ten years ago.

The movie evokes obvious allusions to 9/11, with a giant cloud of dust rushing towards the frightened onlookers as a building collapses and office papers floating through the sky amid the dust. Oddly, this movie did a better job of humanizing the feelings of people on that day than Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center*, simply due to the way it was shot.

The film isn't without flaws, though: besides the headache-inducing camerawork, if New York was being destroyed, there would apparently still be plenty of Nokia phones, Pepsi, and Mountain Dew to go around. Despite being in ad-filled New York, the obvious product placement is enough to ruin the immersion and remind you that you're watching a Hollywood blockbuster rather than independently shot footage. Many people, aching for explanation, will probably also dislike the ending, which won't be divulged here.

Despite such drawbacks, *Cloverfield* predominantly works in providing an intense thrill ride that few action movies these days achieve. But, like the movie, it's all based on perspective; the guy next to me fell asleep in the first ten minutes.

The Bigger The Hit The Harder They Fall.

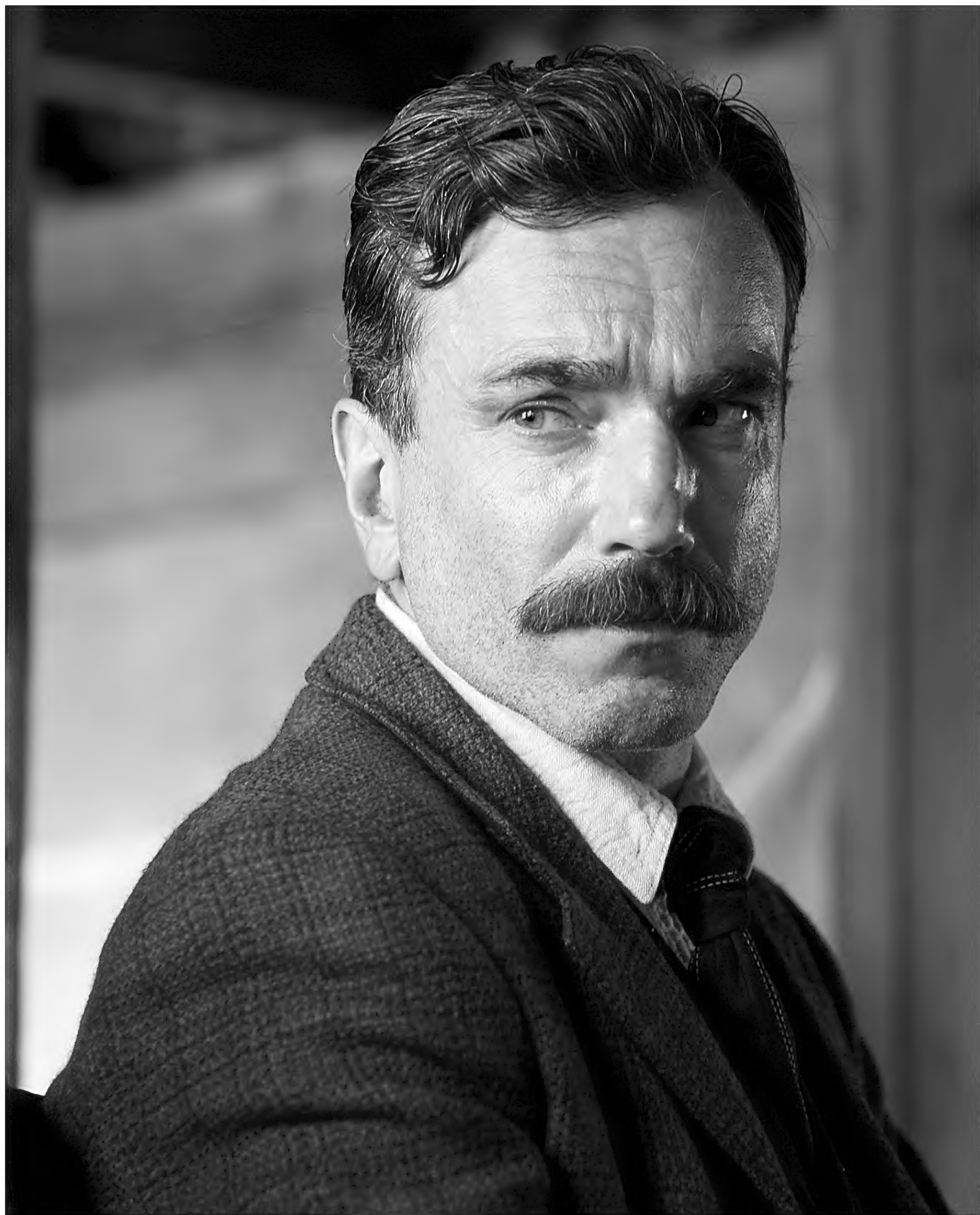


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JANUARY 25 ONLY IN THEATRES



There will (probably) be Oscars for *Blood*

Anderson's gritty epic paints America in the oily-black shades of greed

filmreview

There Will Be Blood

Now Playing

Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson

Starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Paul Dano, Kevin J O'Connor, and Dillon Freasier

MATT HUBERT

Arts & Entertainment Staff

As if audiences needed more incentive to go see Paul Thomas Anderson's *There Will Be Blood*, his brash and brilliant juggernaut of a movie has just been nominated for eight Academy Awards. And deservedly so: no film this year (save for maybe the Coen brothers' near-perfect *No Country For Old Men*) resounds a louder or more timely death knell of an America steeped in violence and stilted by its own greed.

It's certainly not a pretty picture, and I'm not suggesting that it's the one every American filmmaker set out to paint in 2007, but the two biggest films of the year also happened to be the ones that depicted Lady Liberty at her most cold, aggressive, and unfeeling—and you can't help but feel that it's on the minds of her maturing filmmaking talent.

Indeed, what audiences will find in Anderson's adaptation of Upton Sinclair's *Oil!* is a portrait of American expansion neither flattering nor the least bit unfamiliar. The film's opening sequence is a chilling preamble to Daniel Plainview's (Daniel-Day Lewis) success as an early-20th-century oil specula-

tor: every frame is replete with pick-in-hand grit and sprawling panoramic views, tempered with an eerie screech of Radiohead guitarist Johnny Greenwood's dystopic soundtrack.

When Plainview finally strikes black gold, the self-satisfied glint in his eye prevails something quite menacing—a quality that fleshes itself out far into his days as a self-proclaimed “oil-man.”

Anderson spends the better part of three hours asking how far his unsympathetic hero can go, and when he finally goes there, he blows it wide open with an ending monumental enough to rival Marky-Mark's massive “unveiling” in *Boogie Nights*.

He travels about the country, developing concerns and digging wells in rural areas over the next decade until he stumbles on the town of Little Boston: a frontier town fret with traditional values and a certain amount of religious fanaticism—neither of which Plainview wants much to do with—sitting on an ocean of oil. And this is where the film—

and Plainview's uncompromising avarice—hits its bloody and beautiful stride.

As Plainview sways the townspeople into developing their land with one part voracious charisma and one part stone-faced lies, he perfects the very essence of underhanded wheeling and dealing, with a “cute face” (his adopted son, played by Dillon Freasier) to close the deal. He meets his match, however, in Eli Sunday (brilliantly portrayed by *Little Miss Sunshine*'s Paul Dano), the town's prodigal son and preacher who hurls particularly sinister tests of faith Daniel's way. Put simply, Plainview pushes back—and the results are harrowing.

There's been a great deal of grumbling over the ending, both Painview's Howard Hughes-inspired reclusivity and his violent altercation with Eli have been dismissed by some critics as over-the-top and arbitrarily violent. In my mind, it's a nice, black cherry on top: a delightfully bleak ornament to an unwavering form of cruelty (should we expect less from Plainview?).

Anderson spends the better part of three hours asking how far his unsympathetic hero can go, and when he finally goes there, he blows it wide open with an ending monumental enough to rival Marky-Mark's massive “unveiling” in *Boogie Nights*.

Easily the best film of his young career (and that's saying a lot—the guy introduced us to Dirk Diggler), *There Will Be Blood* is a landmark of a film.



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MacGregor's a family prairie tale

theatrepreview

MacGregor's Hard Ice Cream and Gas

Runs 24 January–10 February
Directed by John Hudson
Starring Coralie Cairns, Jessie Gervais, Mark Jenkins, and Myla Southward
Varscona Theatre

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Figuring out the best way to store a dead body is one thing, but being forced to deal with a corpse until the ground thaws is the bizarre conundrum facing one family in Shadow Theatre's *MacGregor's Hard Ice Cream and Gas*.

When the MacGregor family's patriarch dies, his widow, Marlene, and three adult children not only have to handle this situation but also confront the problems that currently strain their interpersonal relationships.

Playing youngest brother Jack is Mark Jenkins. Growing up, Jack was close to his father, helping him run an ice cream and gas store. While some of the family members view Jack as naïve, Jenkins prefers to underscore that his character is actually quite perceptive of the strained family dynamics.

"I'd say out of the entire family, I'm the most idealistic. It's one of those things of, 'Why can't we all just get along?' We have ice cream; we have each other; we have a store; everything can be great. So let's just grin and bear it, and we can be one big happy family," Jenkins laughs.

His father's death, which occurs at the beginning of the play, turns into



the catalyst that brings the entire family home. However, now that the estranged group is together again, the three siblings and their widowed mother must face their past problems. But the situation changes as the family begins to open up and deal with the feelings that they have towards each other.

"We're left to deal with our dysfunction and where we're at so that we can move on and actually find some healing and progress within ourselves and us as a family unit," explains Myla Southward, who plays the eldest daughter, Missy.

"It really is like family in the respect that you don't have to like each other, but you do love each other," Jenkins says, describing the endearing moments and humour that still occur between the characters despite the conflicts.

In addition to the theme of family relationships comes the prairie setting. In the middle of winter in a small town in Saskatchewan, *MacGregor's*

shows the harshness of the climate where these people live and the isolation that can occur when residents live in such small prairie towns. That's where the train theme, a central one to this play, comes in.

"Trains are this lifeline for small towns. They have been an escape; they've brought people home. There is a connection that brings people through these small towns," Southward explains.

Both She and Jenkins say that such homecoming moments contribute to the play's charm.

"The play really finds [...] the magic of families and coming home and people coming back to where they were born," Southward says.

"People do remember where they come from, have an affinity with which they remember those places, that will lead them back eventually to rediscover the beauty that those first people who landed there first realized," Jenkins adds.

Apple's new strategy thin on logic

Bite-sized technology may seem convenient, but the bigger experience gets lost when it's crammed onto a three-inch iPod screen or a tiny MP3 formats



ELLIOT GOODINE

A&E
Commentary

Last week, Apple released their uber-thin new laptop—the MacBook Air—and with its release, the battle of "our shit is thinner than yours" just moved the next level: this computer has no disk drive. No worries, say the folks at Apple, who tell us that we no longer need the drive. "Why, with iTunes," they say, "you can buy all your music, you can load software wirelessly, and starting immediately, rather than watching a DVD, you can just rent movies onto your hard drive for a week via the Apple website." Not only is such a monopolistic marketing strategy questionable, it's also worrisome because this new format of digitizing the totality of entertainment is doing nothing for the quality of art.

In a recent interview, Steven Spielberg admitted that he now has to take into consideration all of the formats that his movies will be watched in. Rather than focusing on simply making a badass big-screen film, Hollywood also now has to consider the guy who's watching the movie on his iPod.

By having to paint with such broad strokes on a screen measured in

inches, the full-size product is bound to have boring and repetitive cinematography. The film industry ought to realize that making movies that make sense on a laptop screen isn't a bright idea in this era of Internet piracy. Movies aren't just for content; it's about the whole popcorn and crowds experience. The absolute best thing about going to see *Grindhouse* last year was hearing the crowd around me groan and gasp when body parts were severed.

Not only is such a monopolistic marketing strategy questionable, it's also worrisome because this new format of digitizing the totality of entertainment is doing nothing for the quality of art.

Pandering to the digital era isn't just happening in the movie industry: music isn't getting any better in the digital age either. The CD is over 20 years old now, and most of us download our MP3s at a lower bitrate. I myself have become a slave to the iTunes play count; I'll hesitate to repeat a song I'm enjoying, just because I know it will go down on my

permanent digital record that I've been favouring that song over all the others on the album. These are the neuroses of the digital age.

While the introduction of the computer has helped independent acts put out better music for less money, it may have made mainstream music a lot worse; artists can now pitch-fix all of their crap singing to go to work on their movie project. Mixing and mastering software used today makes sure that tracks are constantly the same earbleed-inducing volume from start to finish, making songs stand out in bars and cars, regardless of whether such practices result in lower sound quality and headaches for the consumer who actually goes out and pays for the music. Pair all of this with those godawful white iPod earbuds, and it's likely that the turntable your parents had in the '70s was pumping out better sounding music.

I'm not trying to promote total Luddism here. Nobody in their right mind would want to go back from DVD to VHS, and my iPod is a great convenience, just so long as I have a hard copy of my music back home. The big worry is that digitizing everything is changing the way an entire generation is consuming art. Go see a movie in a full theater now and then. Listen to music in a situation where you're not just trying block out other noise. Hell, if enough of us pay attention, the work the entertainment industry puts out may even end up sucking less.

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THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 29 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 24 january, 2008



PETE YEE

A STEELEY GAZE The Trinity Western Spartans had no chance against Alex Steele and the Bears on Saturday night. Steele put up an astonishing 40 points in the game, bringing his weekend total up to 65 and helping the U of A win 79-62.

SU launches its own online job data bank

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

With many students becoming increasingly strapped for cash, the Students' Union is hoping that the introduction of a new job registry will help out those looking to ease their debt load.

Jobkin.ca—a joint project between the SU, the NAIT Students' Association (NAITSA), and the Students' Association of MacEwan College, along with the SU's resident tech gurus Whitematter Development, recently entered into beta phase.

As Eamonn Gamble, SU Vice-President (Operations & Finance), explained it, "when the housing crisis

was hitting, we were thinking about other ways we could help out students with their financial situations, and this was just another registry we thought we could jump on to."

"Jobkin is more for students while they're in school."

EAMONN GAMBLE
SU VP (OPERATIONS & FINANCE)

But while there are already a plethora of online options for students looking for jobs, including the University's own Career and Placement Services

(CAPS), Jobkin's focus is specifically aimed at connecting postsecondary students looking for part-time work and employers willing to offer flexible schedules.

"CAPS is more of a career centre; it's intended to help you with placement in career-oriented jobs," Gamble explained.

"Jobkin is more for students while they're in school. There's going to be a lot more pursuit of part-time employers as well as summer positions."

During its beta period, posting on the site will be free for employers in order to iron out any final kinks in the site and to attract employers.

PLEASE SEE **JOBKIN** ♦ PAGE 2

Only 69 per cent of U of A undergrads finish their degrees

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Approximately one in three undergraduate students at the University of Alberta don't complete their degrees, according to the G13 Data Exchange.

Representing 13 of the biggest research-intensive universities across Canada, the group reported in its Student Completion Rate Comparisons data that only 69 per cent of U of A undergrads graduated, placing the institution third from the bottom.

While the chart doesn't list the names of peer institutions in the results released to the U of A, it showed completion rates for undergrads topping out at 87 per cent. In terms of graduate completion rates, the U of A garnered 61.4 per cent—the lowest of the 13.

"It's one number I don't think you'll be seeing too often in our centennial messages," said Students' Union President Michael Janz. "I see it as a warning bell on a large, systemic problem here at our university."

Both Janz and Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President Julie Charchun explained that as there's no exodus survey, they would like to have some tangible answers as to why so many students leave.

Charchun added that while graduate students may often get "lured" to universities with huge entrance scholarships, that funding tends to trickle out as their programs go on.

"There is no guarantee of what your funding is going to look like after a few years, or even after your first year, and so that might be part of the reason too that students are unable to complete," she said.

But U of A Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein stressed the challenge of making comparisons across different systems because of varying standards, structures, jurisdiction laws, and regulations that affect student mobility.

"For example [...] in Ontario, there is no possibility of moving easily among the colleges and universities," he said. In contrast, Amrhein said that students might simply leave the U of A to transfer to another Alberta institution to complete their education.

"In Alberta, [that student] is viewed in these statistics as a lost student. But in fact, they're not lost at all. They just found another institution and completed their program."

Furthermore, Amrhein said that while the administration shares the students' desire to understand these figures, he doesn't view an exodus

survey as the most cost-effective solution.

"\$50 000 spent on a survey is an instructor not hired in the classroom, so I'm always reluctant if there are other, less expensive options available," he said, adding that once the Alberta Postsecondary Application System (APAS) is launched, it will be easier to know whether students who leave the U of A are in fact leaving their studies for good.

"It's one number I don't think you'll be seeing too often in our centennial messages."

MICHAEL JANZ
SU PRESIDENT

Under APAS, all postsecondary institutions in Alberta would adhere to a single, uniform number for each provincial student, and the common application system, Amrhein said, is "supposed to come online in the next twelve months or so."

Overwhelmingly, both Amrhein and student leaders cite Alberta's booming economy as a major deterrent for students to stay in school. Amrhein said that so long as the job market remains so attractive, his ideal undergraduate completion rate would be in the range of 70-75 per cent.

"However, I would argue for students to not leave school for an extra year's income in the oil patch because the evidence is over their life, completing a degree is worth a huge pot of money," he said.

While Janz agreed that Alberta's economy is a tangible explanation, he maintained that it doesn't overshadow the impact affordability has on students.

"We do know from surveys like the National Survey of Student Engagement [that] affordability is listed as a major concern that students have," Janz said, adding that for many students, the prospect of debt may deter them from postsecondary studies.

"It'd be interesting to know our completion rates back when education was a lot more affordable," Janz said.

However, Amrhein also pointed to inadequate funding as a major obstacle facing the U of A.

"I think the biggest issue [at the graduate level] is that we are way, way, way behind on funding for masters students," he noted.

Inside

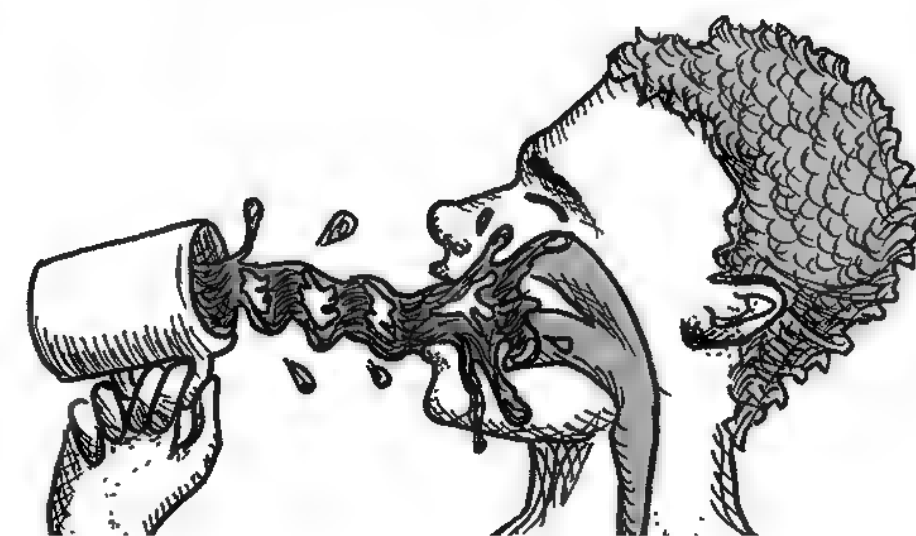
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THE Student Body PART 1

Every body have fun tonight

Ever wonder what happens to those fun little caffeine molecules after you finish your latté? Take a dive into the percolator in the first of our four-part series.

FEATURE, PAGES 14-16





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Wolves let fans dance magique dance

The Montreal band mix experimental dance music with a twist of pop stylings

musicpreview

We Are Wolves

With Jane Vain and The Dark Matter
Saturday, 26 January at 8pm
The Pawn Shop (10549 82 Avenue)

VANESSA HORNE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When you first listen to the music of We Are Wolves, you're immediately struck by the raw, experimental, animalistic freedom in their sound. Soon you find yourself getting wrapped up in the drive, and you can't stop yourself from dancing.

As Alexander Ortiz, bassist and vocalist for the trio, explains, the experience of their music is something that's meant to be shared by the band—Ortiz, Vincent Levesque on keyboard and vocals, and Antonin Marquis on drums and vocals—and a crowd of dancing fans.

"The main important element of everything we do [is] the relation we have with the public and the people who are there and the way we share it. I really perceive it as a ritual in a tribal community, and every part of the community is important—that's what gives the vibe of dancing and going insane and crazy."

Describing his band's sound as "garage rock with electronic," Ortiz explains that they have "the energy of the garage rock [but] with synthesizers and drum machines and effects like post-funk."

However, there's also a multicultural element to their music that further intensifies the experience. Ortiz, who's also Spanish, acknowledges that his trilingual upbringing has a significant influence in their music.



"I speak Spanish," Ortiz says. "It had an influence on the whole education I had when I was younger, the French education and the English. It's the mixture of all those cultural elements and maybe the European influence that is present in Montreal and [its] language."

The first single off their sophomore album *Total Magique*, "Fight & Kiss," illustrates their approach to life, relationships, and music.

"In general, relationships and everything that is a relation is always like that. It's never that easy; it's never black or white; it's never simple love or simple pleasure and being happy," Ortiz explains.

"It takes a lot of violence and destruction. All those elements make it complete, and it's because of those elements of aggressiveness and destruction and hate that love becomes so important and that's the whole part of relationships."

However, Ortiz maintains that the band's music isn't all fury.

"Even though our music is kind of harsh, we still kind of like pop music,

and so we try to work it out the pop way, but [that's] not necessarily what comes out," Ortiz adds.

This duality of severe punk emotionality and pop influences gives We Are Wolves that hard-hitting dance vibe, and on their latest album, *Total Magique*, the subject matter is as Ortiz puts it, "concept du magique"

"It's all about the idea of magic more than the magic itself. The way you perceive magic and try to interpret magic, but it's not that easy. The fact is that you don't really know what is going on, and you kind of want to know," Ortiz admits, adding that listeners and concertgoers can expect a show to add a dash of mystery to the overall experience.

And mystery is important with so many other wolf-christened bands scampering around. Despite the fact that such band names seem to be common, We Are Wolves lives up to theirs, keeping their dance tunes unapologetically wild. And being a wolf band isn't all bad jokes.

"Most of all the bands that I know who are wolf are pretty good," he says. "At least we don't suck all together."



KATIEMOONEY

YOU'RE HOW OLD? FAVA hosted "Art's Birthday" last week. Some sweet bands played; sweeter cake was served.

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Beautiful costumes enhance *Beast*

theatrepreview

Beauty and the Beast

Runs 24 January–2 March
Directed by Bob Baker
Starring Kharytia Bilash, Rejean Cournoyet, and John Ulyatt
Citadel Theatre

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Leaving your fate in the hands of a candelabra is an curious option, but it's one that the *Beast* in the Citadel's production of *Beauty and the Beast* just might have to resort to.

Beauty and the Beast tells the classic story of Belle, a girl who comes across an enchanted castle where a prince, turned into a Beast after denying an enchantress, lives. All the people who lived in the house were also turned into various objects (plates, teapots, etc), and the spell can only be broken if someone falls in love with the Beast and teaches him how to love back. But there's an impending time limit to end the spell, and it's almost expired. So when Belle exchanges places with her father (whom the Beast had captured and imprisoned), many of the characters see this as the last opportunity for the Beast to fall in love and

break the spell.

"It's all up to him, up to this guy who is a complete prick, to fall in love with somebody and learn what it's like to fall in love with them. How hopeless a situation is that?" Says John Ulyatt, who plays Lumière. "At the beginning of the story, we've been in the situation for ten years! So yes, of course it's really silly, but if you go with the reality of the situation, it's really sad. It's really sad, and it's really getting desperate."

Lumière is a candelabra who's in charge of all the dining services in the house. Additionally, while Lumière (and his clock counterpart, Cogsworth) are clownish and move the story around, they also help the Beast become a better person and try to get him to overcome his fear of finally loving someone else.

"[Lumière's] kind of like Maurice Chevalier; he's a bit of Serge Gainsbourg, a bit of everything French that I can imagine. [That] he's 'more French than the French' is a good way of putting it," laughs Ulyatt, referring to Lumière's self-description.

To play a candelabra, Ulyatt prepared much the same way as he approaches other roles: considering what the character is thinking and feeling and understanding what the character's greatest fears are. In this case, Lumière had been working at this

home, and he suddenly found himself turned into a non-human object. Now, he's facing quite a precarious future: if the spell is not broken, not only will the Beast remain like that forever, the spirited household objects will turn inanimate, ending their existence.

In addition to the emotional and psychological dimensions of the character come the physical ones—Lumière is a candelabra, after all. So in each hand, Ulyatt is constantly holding an object that can ignite to simulate candles. Holding this object in candelabra style poses a physical demand on Ulyatt, who did shoulder and bicep exercises to build his strength for this role. But it's all worth it once he's in costume.

"I look like I'm wearing a really stiff unitard; it's almost like wearing a wetsuit, but it's a lot more breathable, otherwise I'd die," he jokes. "And I have a huge collar on that is made of foam and wire and more foam. And [the costume] has got these feet; if you imagine a candelabra, I've kinda got a pedestal; my two feet sort of make up one pedestal, but they split apart, so I've kinda got flippers on my feet. I've kinda got flippers on my feet while I'm wearing a wetsuit. And I'm completely in copper. So sometimes I look like a spaceman, and sometimes I look like a swimmer, and sometimes I look like a dolphin."

Hockey Stories scores as Canadian classic

theatrereview

Hockey Stories For Boys

Runs until 27 January
Directed by Steve Pirot
Starring Steve Pirot, KS Callihoo, and Murray Utas
The Roxy (10708 124 Street)

CHARLIE CRITTENDEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It started with the national anthem, interspersed with catcalls of "Go Leafs!" and "The Leafs suck!" But it wasn't a hockey game, it was a play: *Hockey Stories for Boys*.

An actor came out and asked us to rise for the singing of "O Canada." That sounds hokey, and it was, but there was something more there. As with the rest of the play, I felt drawn in, despite my awareness that it was, well, kind of dumb.

After all, the central plot is two losers on an odyssey to liberate the Stanley Cup. There's a fight scene in the Hockey Hall of Fame and thugs from the NHL. Yeah, it was kind of dumb—but as I looked around me during the anthem, people were actually singing. During the play, people laughed and gasped. Whatever it was, it worked.

One of those losers, Neil (Steve Pirot),

finds the original deed to the Cup and discovers a clause saying it won't be awarded to teams outside the Dominion of Canada. This moment of discovery is the equivalent of a visitation from angels, so Neil heads off on a holy quest to free the Cup from the American-dominated NHL. His buddy, Darcy (KS Callihoo), has three hefty equipment bags of weed to move. The two go road-tripping.

When I read this before seeing the play, I wasn't that excited. It looked like it was going to be just another stereotypical Canadian product, with plenty of "ehs" and toques. There were plenty of these—even a woolly sweater patterned with curling rocks—but there was also Neil and Darcy.

Expertly played by Pirot and Callihoo, the two held together the play with their energy and held attention with their words. They didn't have a choice—there is only one other actor (Murray Utas), no scenery, and barely any props. That my attention was held for several hours by two average Canadian guys speaks volumes for the quality of their work.

Instead of an intricately built set, *Hockey Stories for Boys* uses lights and sounds. With a simple change in colour and ambient noise, Neil could believably move across the stage and be skating down a river or standing in an elevator. These transitions were masterfully done, and with nothing unnecessary between

me and them, the characters connected.

Part of the connection was in their normalcy. They weren't anything special, and no one really liked them. Neil was out of a job, and Darcy was still living with his mom. They want to escape their lives—Neil hilariously daydreams of attacking successful jerks around him—and finally break free on their wild goose chase across Canada.

So, do you need to like hockey to like *Hockey Stories for Boys*? I'm one of those unfortunate people who can't even figure out the little abbreviations by the score, so I was unsure. The answer, thankfully, is that while your appreciation might be deepened, the play's enjoyable regardless of whether or not you've ever followed Canada's favourite game.

Even the most hockey-ish parts of the play—the men reading from a hockey storybook to pass time—are engaging. I found myself engrossed in tales such as the hockey team that trekked across Canada on dogsleds and bicycles to make it to the 1905 Stanley Cup and the Leafs star that disappeared into the forest, rumoured to have defected to the Soviets to train their team.

Ultimately, despite being deadly Canadian—what other country could make an epic journey out of finding a hockey trophy and do it in a station wagon?—*Hockey Stories for Boys* skates its way into your heart.

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PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK



DR. JASON CAREY

MEC E 380

I believe Dr. Carey really cares about enlightening students and providing them with everything they could want or need to facilitate their learning experience. He is the only professor I know who has taken advantage of the professor reviewing program (offered by [the SU]) to have an outside assessor come into the class mid semester and query the class on how things are going, what teaching methods work well, which don't, etc. and then provide Dr. Carey with a report in a follow-up meeting. To me, that spells commitment. In addition to this, he is very timely and thorough in getting back to students via e-mail, his lectures are well organized and he is always willing to help.

Do you have a professor that's unique and shows their value of undergraduate teaching? Nominate them! Email avpa@su.ualberta.ca.

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STUTREBELCO

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT Together, the Pandas and UBC Thunderbirds own the Canada West leaderboards in most categories. This weekend, both teams will be trying to back up those numbers.

Volleyball Pandas vie for playoff position with UBC

Fourth-place U of A team prepares to host second-place T-Birds

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

With only six regular-season games left in the year, the Pandas volleyball team is heading into this weekend's games with the post-season consequences at the front of their minds. Ranked fifth in the country, the Pandas (11-3) will play host to the second-ranked UBC Thunderbirds (13-1), and the results will have a big impact on the Canada West standings and playoff matchups.

The top four teams in Canada West—Manitoba, UBC, Calgary, and Alberta—are all within four points of each other, so there's plenty of room for the conference rankings to shift, and the next few games are particularly important.

"It definitely puts more pressure on each game, knowing that who we play in the playoffs is dependent on these games," Pandas outside hitter Jocelyn Blair said. "But we do have a lot of control over where we finish."

"It's kind of good knowing that we're playing the teams that are ahead of us [in the standings] coming up. It's all up to us."

"Calgary's in a really good position, Manitoba's in a good position, UBC's in a really good spot, but we are too because we control a lot of it," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler agreed. "It's nice to have that still up for grabs at this time of year because sometimes one team just kind of pulls away, and nobody's able to catch that top spot. But it's all wide open still."

Eisler is happy with her team's position, even if they're not on top at the moment. She pointed out that Alberta was in third place going into the final four last year and ended up winning gold at nationals. She said they're looking forward to a similar challenge this season if it comes to it.

"I think there's something to be said for

having to fight for everything you get," she said. "To be able to stay at home through the rest of the league games and playoffs, and then to travel to nationals, would be an awesome recipe, but we'll deal with whatever we're given. Anyway you look at it, I can script it into something pretty positive."

The T-Birds are certain to be tough competition for the Pandas this weekend and vice versa. The Pandas lead the conference in hitting percentage and service aces, kills, and assists per game; UBC follows closely in the latter two categories. Meanwhile, the T-Birds have the best opponent's hitting percentage in Canada West.

"I expect really tough matches," Blair said. "We've been watching video of them and preparing, and it looks like it's going to be a really close game."

"They've got a lot of offensive power," Eisler said. "So if they're able to control their first contact, the offence is really tough. For us, it's a matter of trying to get them out of rhythm a little bit and out of sync, extend some rallies, and just make them earn every point the hard way."

T-Birds and Pandas also dominate the individual statistics leaderboards in Canada West. UBC players hold the top spot in hitting percentage and service ace and assist averages. Blair holds the best kill average, and U of A athletes are second in individual block and assist averages.

"Our team is going to have to have a really balanced attack," Eisler said. "They're too good to go at one-dimensionally, and so we're going to use a sort of multi-pronged approach, where they're going to have to be aware of everyone on the court, and so any one of us at any time can make that impact."

The Pandas will serve up against the Thunderbirds on Friday and Saturday at 7pm in the Main Gym.

Pool veterans hope to make post-season splash at home

This weekend's Canada West championships in Edmonton will be the final home meet for some of Alberta's strongest swimmers

MARC AFFELD
Sports Writer

With the U of A's swimming season heading into the final laps, the Canada West championships being held in Edmonton this weekend are a bitter-sweet reminder that the end is near for some veteran members of the team.

"I think what I'm going to miss the most is the team atmosphere. Having a group of guys and girls you show up to school with everyday, [who] you see everyday and get to share all these experiences with," Bears team captain Mike Vanden Ham said. "Day and night, you live with these people, and they become your brothers and sisters, basically. I think that will be the hardest—leaving that family and moving on."

"[They're] the reason I came back in the first place," agreed veteran Rob Stanger, who took three years off from the team. "I missed the whole atmosphere of hanging out with people, sharing the same interests, and going for the same goals and everything like that. It's the best feeling."

Third-year swimmer Adam Amer explained how veterans like Vanden Ham, who joined the team in the 2001/02 season, contribute both in and out of the pool.

"[Vanden Ham's] got this way of bringing the whole team together—

everyone just loves him to death, and they respect him completely," Amer said.

However, the end of his CIS eligibility doesn't mean the end of Vanden Ham's swimming career.

"I'm looking forward to becoming active in the alumni association and really helping the team in that sense. As well, I've been tossing around the idea of professionally coaching a varsity team or possibly a club team."

"His swimming career will never end; he just loves the sport so much," U of A head coach Bill Humby said.

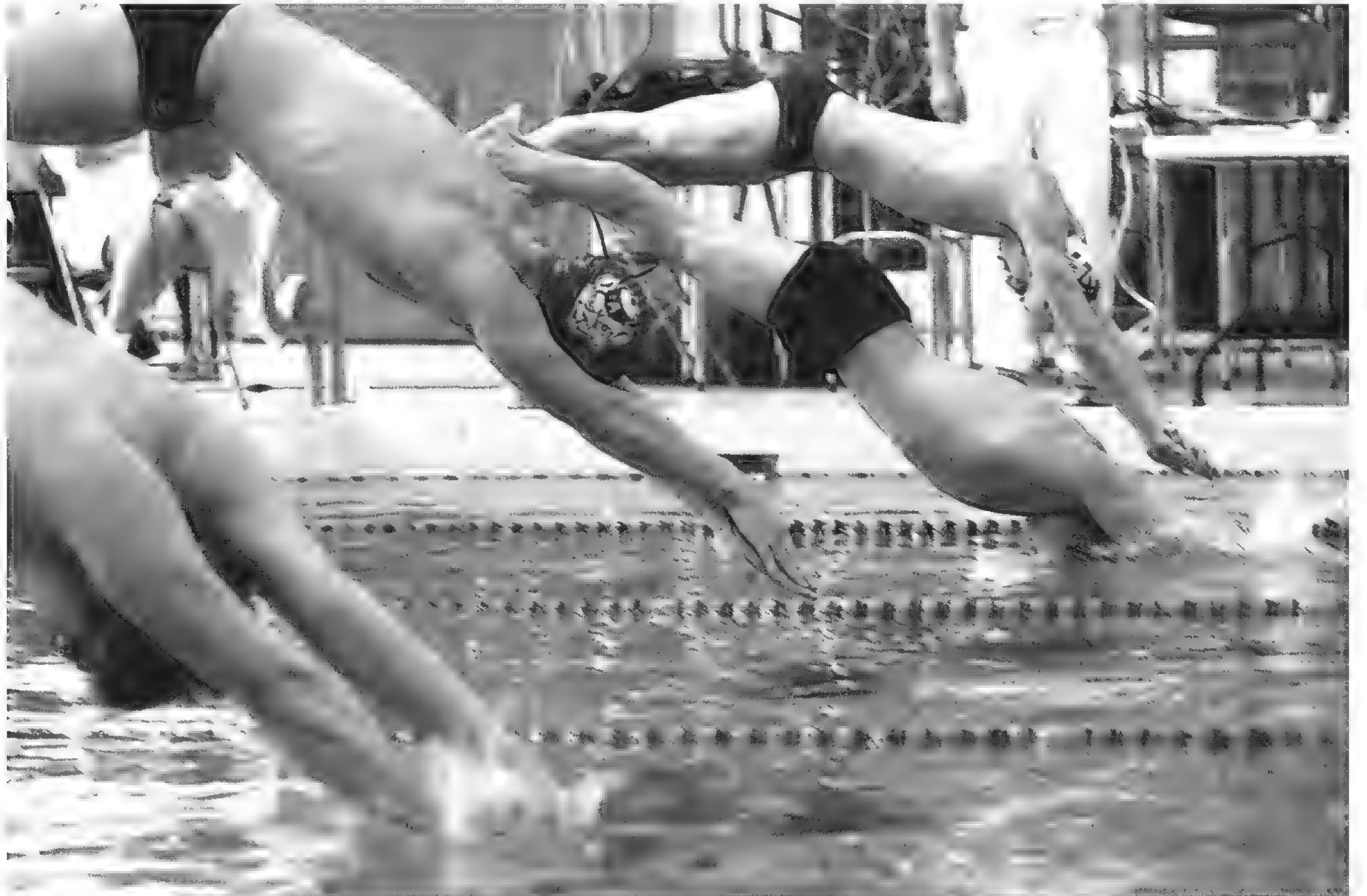
Another swimmer winding up his last year of CIS eligibility is the Bears' most consistent finisher, Jian-lok Chang.

"It's going to be a big loss when he leaves because he's been our all-star for the last three years," Vanden Ham said.

"Jian-lok is quite a unique character and definitely contributes a lot to the team," Amer added.

But reminiscences aside, the Bears and Pandas have high expectations for their placements this weekend.

"Last year, [the Pandas] were fifth," Humby said. "Victoria creamed us, and Manitoba just barely beat us. This year, I don't think Manitoba is an issue, and I think we've got the depth to beat Victoria—I think the girls can finish third, which would



FILE PHOTO: NEIL WILDING

LIKE A HOT KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER The best swimmers in Canada West will dive in this weekend in Edmonton.

be a big step for them."

The Bears and Pandas are both looking to have more swimmers qualify for the CIS championship, which takes place in the end of February at UBC. The team has nine men and eight women who've already quali-

fied for the meet.

"The plan is to go in there this weekend, use our depth, and make every single event really count," Humby said. "You can't think about teams like UBC and all of their national championships—you have to think that their

tenth guy isn't as good as our tenth guy."

The Bears and Pandas host the Canada West Championship this weekend at the Kinsmen Pool. Action starts at 10am on Friday and Saturday and at 1pm on Sunday.



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS On top of their regularly scheduled games against the Cougars this weekend, the Bears will face off against the Dinos to make up for one of the games that was delayed due to the mumps outbreak before Christmas.

Ice Bears prepare for Regina and Calgary in triple-header

NICK FROST
Sports Staff

The Golden Bears hockey team faces a tall order as they prepare to take on not one but two opponents—the University of Regina Cougars (15-3-4) and the University of Calgary Dinos (10-6-4)—in an uncharacteristic three-game set this upcoming weekend. Because of a mumps outbreak in the Dinos’ locker room earlier this season, which forced the postponement of a weekend set between Alberta and Calgary, a make-up game has been added to the Sunday following what was originally supposed to be a two-game set against the Cougars.

“We’ll have to put in more effort this week to prepare, in the sense that we’ll have to move through things a little bit quicker than we normally like to, just because we’re facing two teams rather than one,” said Bears head coach Eric Thurston said, whose team (15-3-2) is in second place in Canada West—two points behind Saskatchewan—after a two-game sweep by the Dinos this past weekend.

“Usually, you can plan for the whole week, so we’ll have to mix things up a little bit,” he said. “With that, though, we’re coming off of the series with Calgary, so we’re pretty familiar with what they’re going to bring to the table—it’s fresh in our minds.”

The challenge for the Golden Bears is not only the amount of hockey being played in such a short space of time, but also the fact that they will have to adapt to facing two different styles of hockey

in the same weekend. With the Dinos more offence-driven and the Cougars mostly focused on defence, Thurston acknowledges the small window that his team will have to adapt their style between opponents.

“We’ll have to put in more effort this week to prepare, in the sense that we’ll have to move through things a little bit quicker than we normally like to, just because we’re facing two teams rather than one.”

ERIC THURSTON
BEARS HEAD COACH

“[In this situation], we’ll have to fine-tune our game from team to team—specifically, knowing what we’re going to have to do be successful and even a little bit of anticipating what they’re going to do,” Thurston explained.

Starting off the weekend will be the originally scheduled two-game set against the Regina Cougars on Friday and Saturday night. Having already defeated the Cougars earlier this year, the Golden Bears know that they will need to push past Regina’s strong defensive efforts—particularly, on the part of goaltender Brant

Hilton, who currently boasts the lowest goals-against-average (1.96) and highest save percentage (.916) in Canada West.

“Regina plays their defence really well, and their goaltending plays very well—they’re both particularly stingy,” Thurston said. “You have to be patient with them; sometimes, I think our guys want to press things a little when we feel that we should be scoring right away.”

“We have to play a patient game, understanding that the game is 60 minutes and is not likely going to be won in the first five or ten minutes; it’s going to be over a full three periods.”

On Sunday the Bears will face Calgary—who swept Alberta this weekend for the first time in over eleven years. Coach Thurston attributes the losses to “mental laziness” and possible complacency, acknowledging that his team will need to be stronger in that area in order to shut down Calgary’s high-powered offence.

“With their offensive guys, we need to eliminate their time and space,” Thurston said. “We made some crucial turnovers in bad zones that just come back to haunt you. So, I think that being mentally prepared is part of it, but also taking away their offensive guys ability to create chances. Because when you give their offensive guys those opportunities, you’re going to pay, and that’s something that I think we were guilty of last weekend on both nights.”

The Bears play Regina at 7:30pm on Friday and Saturday night, and Calgary at 7pm on Sunday.

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**SPORTS
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By Robin Collum

Hole puts it in the hole

If you had the chance to see last Friday's women's basketball game and didn't take it, you probably deserve a kick in the shins. I was away and am totally steamed that I missed out on what will almost certainly turn out to have been the most exciting game of the regular season.

In a repeat of last year's national final, the fifth-ranked Pandas (12-4) took on the top-ranked SFU Clan (17-1). Though Alberta lost, it was an extremely close game—the lead reversed with each quarter and the end of regulation time saw a 63-63 tie. Both teams fought hard through the first overtime, but the Clan had better luck getting their balls in the basket and won the game 75-73.

Alberta fourth-year forward Trish Ariss led the game in scoring with 19 points, while SFU centre Kate Hole and U of A guard Emily Bolduc each sunk 14.

On Saturday night, Bolduc shone again as the Pandas took on Trinity Western (8-10). She put in 17 points, helping propel the Pandas to a 76-67 victory.

Next up for the Pandas is an away series in Saskatoon against the U of S (8-8) this weekend.

Steele the one

The Bears basketball team (11-5)—or rather fifth-year guard Alex Steele—ran all over the competition this weekend. The Bears dominated the court against SFU (9-9), beating them 81-61, and posted a 79-62 victory against TWU (6-12) the next night. But as much as basketball is a team sport, it was Steele's performances both nights that earned Alberta those wins.

On Friday night, he led the game with a more-than-respectable 25 points. That number looks like small potatoes compared to his Saturday performance, however: in a veritable orgy of offence, he scored 40 points—that's one more than the rest of his teammates combined.

The Bears are going to need Steele to be on his game this weekend too, as the team heads to Saskatoon to face the Huskies (9-7) in a key matchup for division placement. Right now, the Bears are in second place in Canada West's Central Division behind Calgary, and Saskatchewan's right behind. If the Bears can take the Huskies in both games, it will essentially clinch their Central Division spot.

Pandas stay on top of food chain

Going into last weekend's game between



PETEYEE

WHITE GIRLS CAN JUMP Kate Hole (15) tries to keep Trish Ariss from the basket on Friday night. Ariss sank 19 points, but SFU won anyway in overtime.

Alberta (17-2-1) and Manitoba (15-3-2), it seemed like everyone—including me—was talking about how great it is for there to be serious competition in women's hockey in Canada West. The Pandas have dominated the conference, and the league, for about a decade, and Manitoba really wanted to best them.

As well as the Bisons have been playing, however, they weren't quite able to overcome a determined Alberta side on the weekend. On Friday, the game went to a shootout, and the Pandas won 3-2 thanks to Leah Copeland's goal. Saturday's Alberta victory was even more decisive, with the Pandas earning a 5-2 win.

A healthy rivalry has certainly begun, and every time they see each other in the near future—whether this post-season or next year—will certainly be an exciting game.

Dusty fossils get a sweeping

The Bears volleyball team (11-1) didn't have much trouble with the Calgary Dinos (6-6) on the road this weekend. The Bears beat the Dinos in three straight games both Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, the Bears won 25-23,

25-19, and 25-16. Fourth-year Alberta left side Tim Gourlay led his team with eleven kills. Teammates Joel Schmuland and Ben Saxton were right behind with ten each, though it was a Dino, Omar Langford, who led the game with 14.

The next night, Joel Schmuland lit up the court with 15 kills—at least six more than anyone else. The fourth-year right side helped his team take the Dinos 25-15, 25-18, and 25-19.

The Bears are away from home again this weekend. They'll be travelling to UBC to meet the Thunderbirds (11-3). Those games should be much tighter than the ones in Calgary, so the Green and Gold will want to bring their best game if they're to keep the number-one spot in the country for a tenth straight week.

I see London, I see Ottawa

An informal poll of the office has revealed that most of us are almost out of clean, nice underwear after being out of town for nearly a week. As Mike Kendrick puts it, he's only a few days away from resorting to wearing his "third-string boxers."

Victor, on the other hand, is an obnoxious keener. He's already done all of his laundry and is gloating, jerk.



PETEYEE

MELEE AGAINST MANITOBA Bisons goaltender Stacey Corfield lets in one of the Pandas' five goals on Saturday night.

Making all the right calls

Former Concordia announcer rises from CIS all the way to NBA

ADAM STEISS
The Concordian (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP)—He started his career calling games for Concordia's sports teams. Now former Concordia University Stingers game announcer Olivier Sedra mans the mic for the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers, with a post at the 2008 Beijing Olympics on the horizon.

Sedra's road to the Cavs' announcer booth began in the comparatively minuscule confines of the Concordia basketball gym. Enrolled in the radio/TV program at Concordia, Sedra later joined CJAD News as an intern.

"Radio and TV is more of a passion for me than anything else," he said. "I got my break with CJAD reporting on sports, covering the Habs post-game—that kind of thing."

Before joining the Cavs, Sedra cut his teeth with the American Basketball Association's Montreal Royal. Sedra had also garnered experience announcing at Stingers hockey games and wrestling matches, as well as at a few boxing matches. The Saint-Laurent native first heard of the Cleveland job opening through a news article and sent them some demos of his work. He was then shortlisted for an interview and audition.

"I thought it was kind of odd that they would bring me down since I'm Canadian, but I went down anyway with the assumption that even if I didn't get the job, I'd learn from the experience," he said.

Sedra's audition consisted of calling a pickup game between employees of the Cavaliers' Quicken Loans Arena. Aside from announcing the scorers, he also read public address announcements, game introductions, and ran sound checks for certain key game phrases. Everything Sedra said was recorded and later compared against the tapes of other applicants.

"I was called back down there two weeks later for the final auditions, then came back to Canada,

and another couple of weeks later, I was calling my first NBA game," he said.

In his first year as a big league announcer, Sedra had the fortune of calling the Cavs all the way to the NBA finals. His first real trial by fire occurred that same year during game six of the Eastern Conference finals. After the first quarter ended, the arena's scoreboard, game clock, and 24-second shot clock stopped working. This left Sedra as the only medium through which the players, coaches, and fans could keep track of the clocks.

"Everything just fell on my hands," he said. "There was a 21-minute delay, and the producer came up and told me that I would have to announce everything that went on in the game."

Among other responsibilities, he was counting down each possession so that the players knew how much time they had left to shoot.

"It brought me back to my roots," he said. "Growing up calling youth basketball, you call the time, you call the score, and everything in between. You never picture yourself doing it on national TV, but we had to adapt ourselves, and it became a production within a production."

Nonetheless, Sedra didn't miss a call.

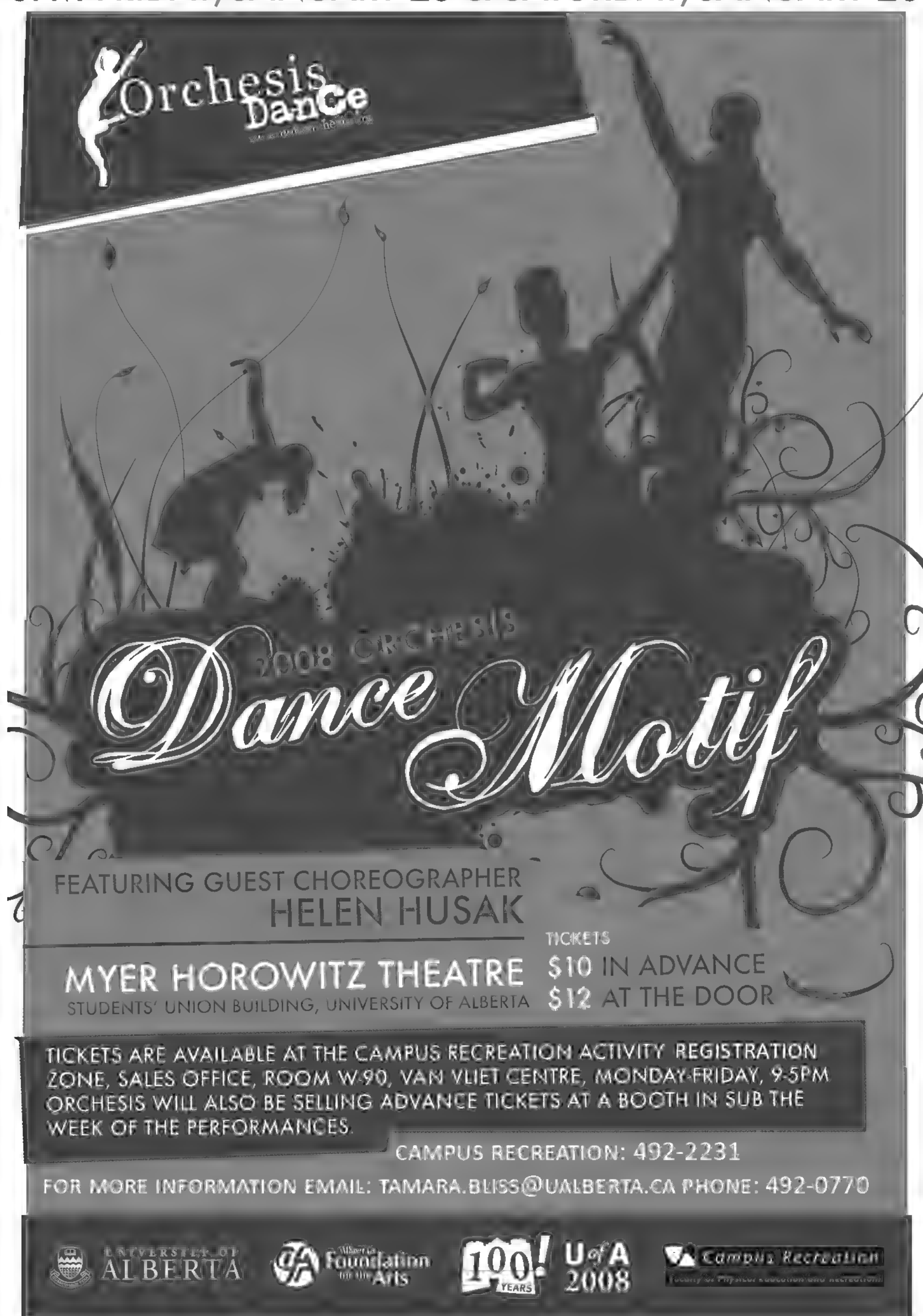
With a full NBA season under his belt, Sedra has now been given the opportunity to make his calls on the international stage.

"After the finals, I met with my senior marketing director and my game director," he said. "They both told me that the NBA was recommending me to [the International Basketball Federation] to announce the Olympics, which is just such an honour."

Looking back on his start at Concordia and how he has turned his passion into a successful career, Sedra sees himself remaining an announcer for a long time yet.

"It's absolutely phenomenal, second to none. I have the best seat in the house, doing something that I love doing."

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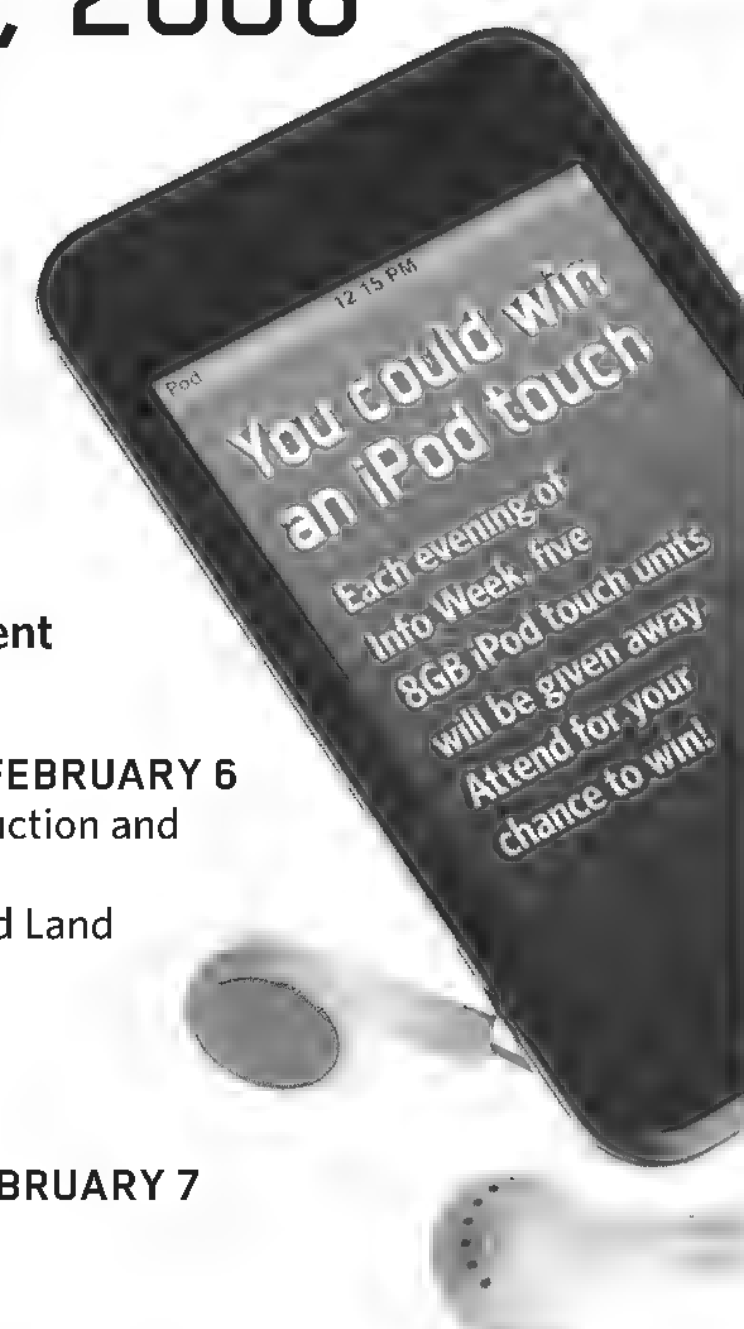
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Hospitality and Culinary Arts
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
Engineering Technologies
and Applied Sciences
I.T. and Electronics

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6
Building Construction and Design
Environment and Land Management
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Campus Club is proud to present a Pubic Seminar with Dr. Margaretta Eppers from the Edmonton Pubic School Board Building a Relationship with a Child. Plus a panel of Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteers who will share ideas for activities that volunteers and kids can do together. 5:00 pm. Thurs 31 Jan. CAB 235. For more info contact Amanda at 424-8181 ext 238 or amanda.nelsen@su.ualberta.ca or visit bpbse Edmonton.org.

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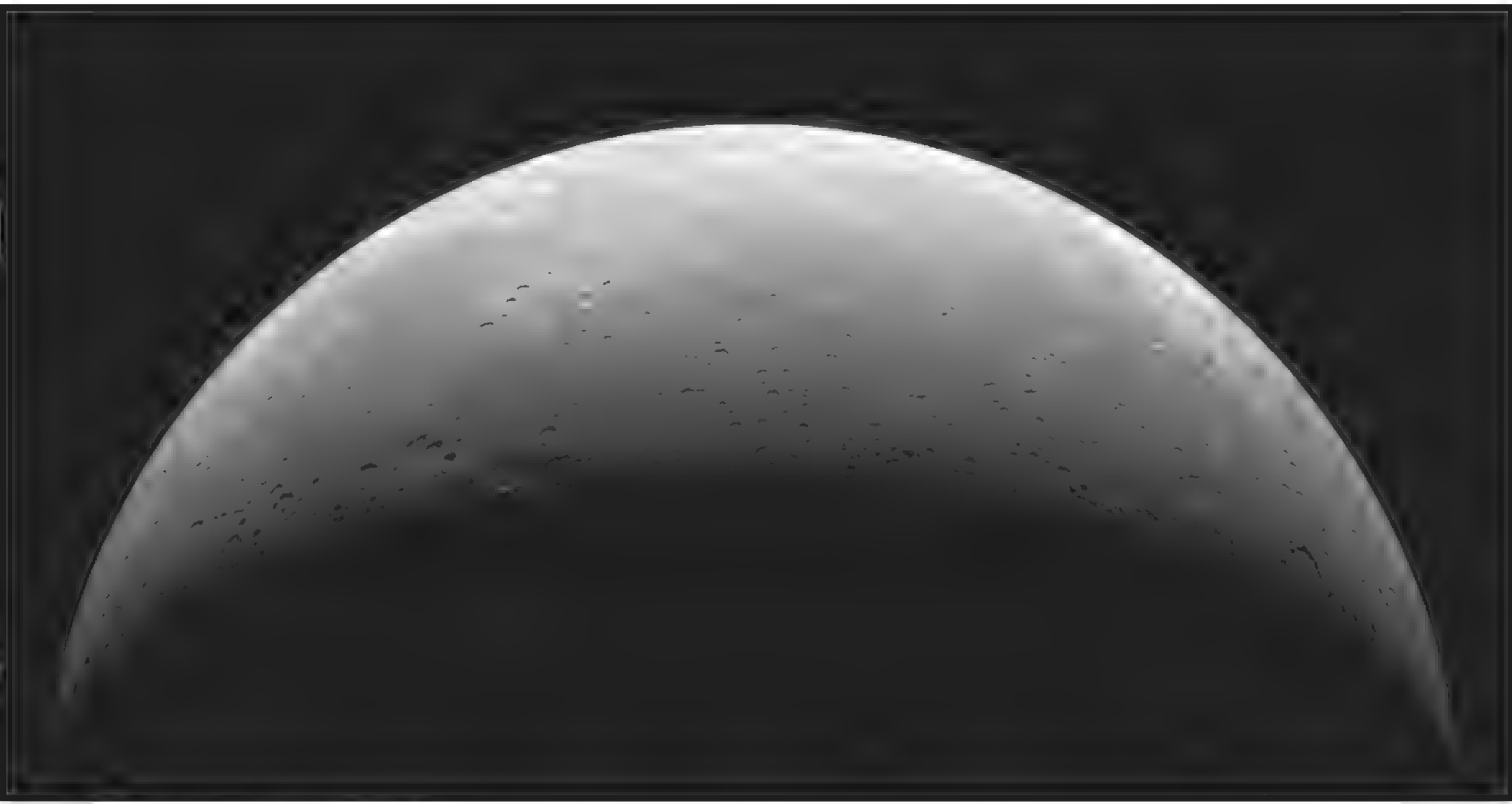
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Volunteer Assistant for Kids Karate Club, ages 6-12. One hour/week Thursdays 4pm, two blocks from U of A Campus. 2+ years experience in a Martial Art. Email WPKKC.Sense@notmail.com or phone Gordon at 492-9930 weekdays.



astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

Hey, is anyone else out there in Readerland thinking about purchasing their own home? Good lord, I thought having a boyfriend was stressful, but buying a house is a whole 'nother ball game. Everything we've seen so far has been uglier than a box of home-

made sand. Here's hoping our luck will change.

I don't mean to be all doom and gloom this week, but there's an asteroid heading straight for us. On 29 January, asteroid 2007 TU24 will miss up, but only by 1.4 lunar distances. That's a very near miss in space-talk. This asteroid is a honkin' 400m in diameter. Let's all think positive thoughts on the 29th, huh?

If you would like to see Mercury this week (although not as close as NASA's Messenger spacecraft saw it last week) go outside 45-60 minutes after sunset. Look to the west-southwest, and you'll see the closest planet to the sun. HAWT!

AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life.

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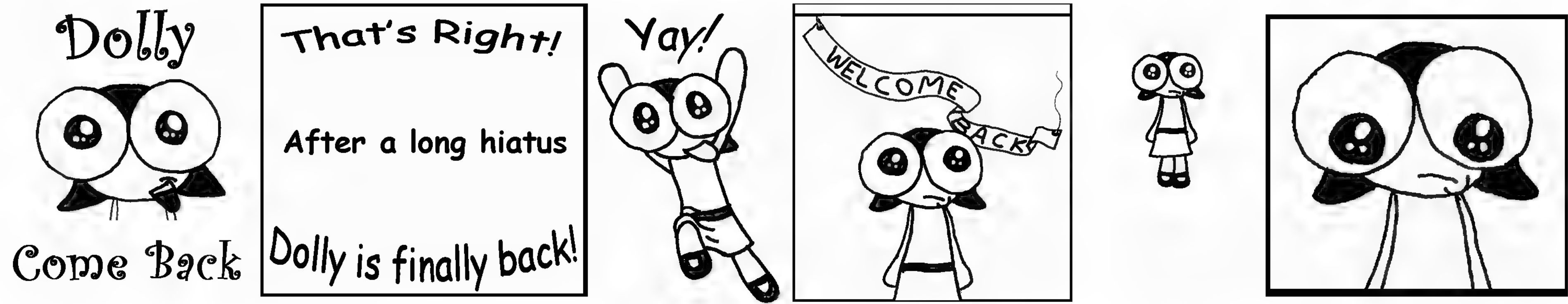
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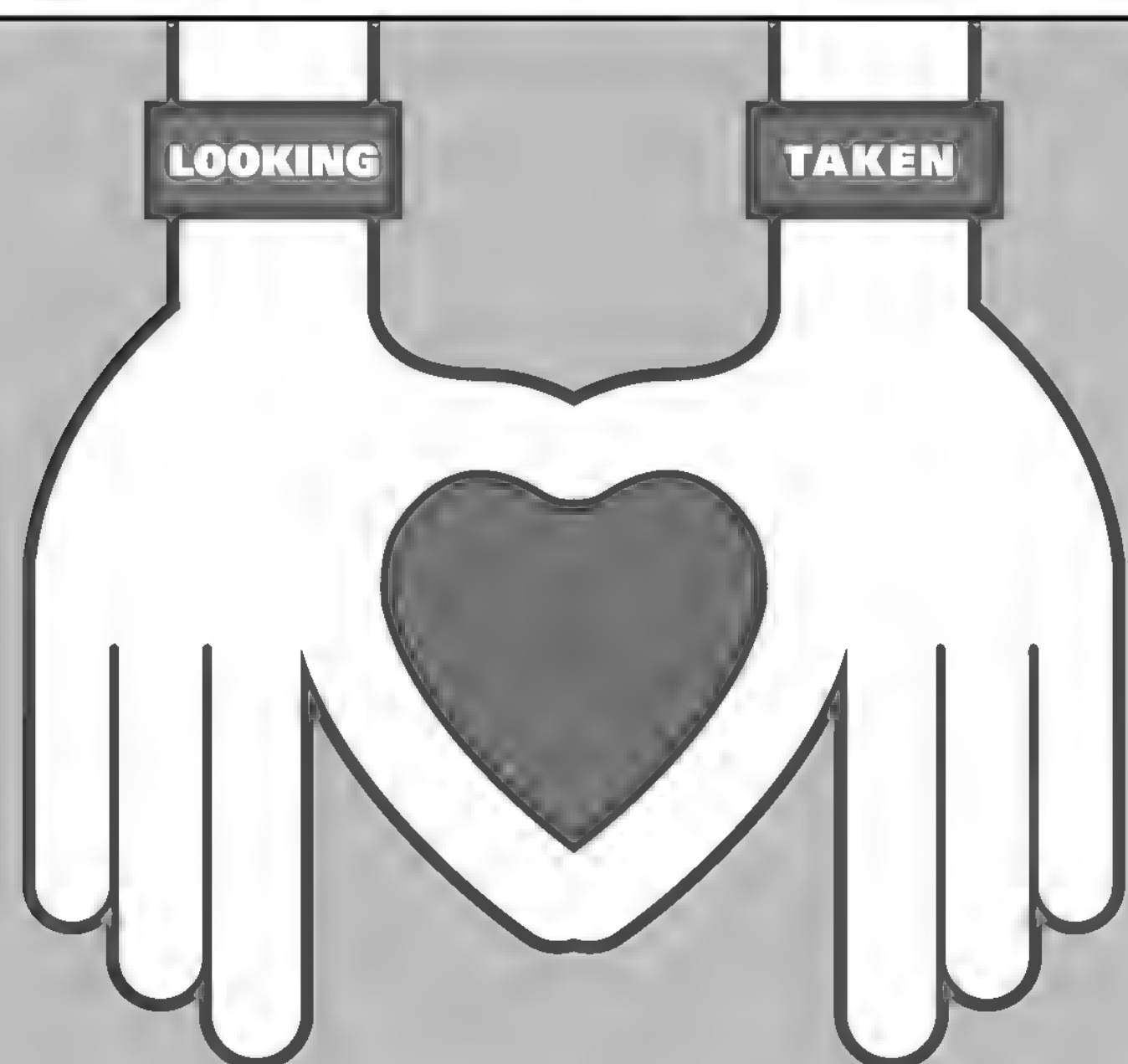
RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super CoolScan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENCE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitopan is the Gateway's sister paper and we owe her dearly, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of choice are Airplane and Rincewind Bin 1 Date.

contributors

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Jobkin to focus on part-time jobs

JOBKIN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After the trial period ends, the three student associations will begin marketing the site more and charging for postings come April or May, when the site is officially launched.

"So far, we've been marketing it to a lot of our suppliers; marketing it within our tenants [...] we haven't really pushed hard so far," Gamble said.

"The marketing is going to hit full tilt within the next week."

EAMONN GAMBLE
SU VP (OPERATIONS & FINANCE)

"The marketing is going to hit full tilt within the next week," he said. "Because we'll then have a firm deadline of how long the free trial period is going to be, and have a better idea of how many people are going to be using it."

However, while the SU hasn't been marketing the site exhaustively, the initial interest from both employers and students has still been quite good. As Gamble noted, one employer posting on the site had three applications within the first day of its posting and from those hired a student.

"The response has been positive so far, but it's way to early to be sure."

Expert weighs in on nuclear power

Experimental designs and waste management hot topics for Dr Edwards

TOM WAGNER
News Staff

On 16 January, Dr Gordon Edwards, an expert on nuclear energy and the President of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, came to the University of Alberta campus to discuss a recent proposal to bring nuclear energy to Alberta—as well as the many serious problems it could bring along with it.

The first of these problems, according to Edwards, is the proposal by the upstart Alberta Energy Corporation to build a 2200-megawatt plant containing two Advanced CANDU reactors on Lac Cardinal, 30km west of Peace River. His concern lies in the fact that these reactors are an experimental design, having never been built anywhere in the world.

"They're basically conducting an experiment by building these reactors here in Alberta," Edwards said. "It's convenient that they're building them here so they can work out the wrinkles before selling them elsewhere."

As Edwards explained, one of the challenges of nuclear energy production is the creation of radioactive waste. According to him, nuclear reactors produce both radioactive tritium and carbon-14 during normal operation, which are subsequently released into surrounding bodies of water.

But the bigger issue, Edwards said, is that these reactors also produce highly radioactive waste called fis-

sion products that are so radioactive they produce intense heat and must be stored in cooling ponds for at least seven years before disposal.

"The fission products are so hot and radioactive, a single spent bundle would kill a human being in 20 seconds from the distance of a metre," Edwards said.

"The fission products are so hot and radioactive, a single spent bundle would kill a human being in 20 seconds from the distance of a metre."

DR GORDON EDWARDS
NUCLEAR ENERGY EXPERT

He added that the greater problem is that this waste remains extremely radioactive for tens and thousands of years and must be stored somewhere—a major problem for Hugh MacDonald, Liberal MLA for Edmonton-Goldbar and his party's energy critic.

"No one has agreed to store the radioactive waste on a long-term basis," MacDonald said. "Long after you and I are gone off this planet, who is going to store the waste permanently and where?"

For MacDonald, there are far too

many unanswered questions to seriously consider building reactors in Alberta. He said we don't even know whether there is enough water in Lac Cardinal to sustain these two reactors, which according to Edwards would use about 57 billion litres per year.

Like MacDonald, the Conservatives have many questions concerning nuclear energy, but according to Jason Chance, the spokesman for Alberta Energy, they're attempting to gain clarity on the situation.

"The Alberta government doesn't have a position on nuclear energy at this point, and what we're doing is studying the issue, and that includes all of the different issues related to nuclear energy," Chance said.

Both Chance and MacDonald, however, were quick to point out that while Alberta, as a net importer of energy, needs a new generator now, a reactor would take at least a decade to build, making it far less useful as a solution to our present problems. According to MacDonald, the reactors wouldn't be used for Alberta's energy needs, but instead for export.

"The government here—and they want to be very quiet about this—have a grand plan to export large volumes of electricity from Alberta to the Pacific Northwest and California," MacDonald said. "Why should we turn ourselves into the ashtray of North America for electricity exports?"

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Kelsey Tanasiuk



Marc Orchard
Business V



Edmond Chen
Engineering II



Jana Gaddi
Science II



Courtney
Konschuh
Science II

"Maybe if I was more ambitious, but at the current time of my life, jobs aren't that high a priority. I'm about to graduate, for now, I'm happy to just do next to nothing."

"I guess so, for lazy people. I would use it because I'm lazy. [It's funny because the last person said that he was too lazy to use it.] I guess you need that peak level, like if you have a normal curve. If you're an outlier, you're either motivated enough to find your own job, or you're too lazy to get a job at all."

"No and no. I don't work. I don't know enough about it. Lots of people don't even live here."

"I don't like to find jobs online. I prefer to actually go and talk to someone at an employment centre or something. I like to go and see who's hiring and actually talk to people one-on-one."

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U of A study shows attractive retail salespeople are able to sell more

Jennifer Argo's study examines how attractiveness motivates retail purchases

BRENDAN COX
News Writer

A University of Alberta study has shown that consumers are more interested in buying clothes that are being promoted by attractive salespeople.

Jennifer Argo, an associate professor at the U of A School of Business who specializes in social influence, led the study that demonstrated that people will be more eager to buy a shirt after it's been worn by someone that they are attracted to.

Argo and her colleagues asked 300 people to try on a T-shirt at the U of A Bookstore. In the first part of the study, the participants were told to try on a specific shirt, only to be told by a researcher disguised as a salesperson that the last available shirt of that kind was already being tried on by someone else. Half the time, the person trying the shirt on was a model, and half the time, the person was of average attractiveness.

In every case, the participants observed the person leaving the change room and were then asked to evaluate the shirt. If the participants observed an average-looking person with the shirt, then they expressed little interest in the shirt, yet if the shirt had been worn by a model, the shirt then became more attractive to them, and they were willing to pay more for it.



BLUE STEEL, ANYONE? Argo holds up pictures of some of the study's models.

"The explanation that we can draw from our research is that people want to get the 'essence' of that other attractive person," Argo said.

In the second part of the study, male subjects were again told to try on specific shirt. Half the time, a female salesperson of average appeal told the subject that she had worn the shirt on her last shift, and half the time, a beautiful salesperson told them the same. Sometimes, the shirt was shown to the subject on a hanger to suggest that it had not been

washed, and other times, the shirt was in a dry-cleaning bag.

The subjects admired the shirt more when it was unwashed after being worn by a beautiful female.

"Our studies have only been with clothes, so I can't say whether it would be the same with pens or something, but there is a sort of intimacy that's desired. A shirt is pulled over your head and is close to your skin; that sort of touch is more desired when it's linked to someone attractive," Argo said.

Arts students discuss how best to increase the value of their degrees

EDMON ROTEA
News Staff

Last Wednesday, students, professors, and alumni from the Faculty of Arts met to discuss the state of arts education and the value of an arts degree, specifically in the context of the changing needs in Canadian society, the economy, and increased globalization.

The event, titled Creating an Arts Degree for future Students: The Whole Story, was presented by the recently formed Collective Body for Arts Students (CBAS) and the U of A Students' Union. It served as a forum for students and a panel of six professors and alumni—each from varying arts disciplines—to engage in a continuing discussion of Arts education in the 21st century.

"It's a valuable opportunity for faculty members and students to reflect on the whole process [of an arts education], to revitalize what we do, and perhaps reinvent what we do," said Dr Debra Cairns during the forum's opening remarks.

Cairns, a professor in the U of A's Department of Music, is also a member of a faculty-wide committee focused on engaging both staff and students in a series of dialogues concerning arts education. She noted that feedback from such dialogues is important in formulating a plan to improve the state of arts education and the student experience at the U of A.

"We felt that it was very important to gain input from undergraduate students," Cairns remarked.

The forum discussed the holistic

experience of an arts education, the meaningfulness and importance of an arts degree, and ideas for improving the undergraduate experience.

The forum also discussed the increasing difficulties experienced by students as they complete their degree, while presenting suggestions to improve student engagement in the classroom and post-graduation employment.

"Students today are facing more and more barriers to a [postsecondary] education, often having to take on second jobs [...] and other issues surrounding just being able to study here at this institution," said SU President Michael Janz.

He said that such problems are reflected in the growing number of undergraduates who are taking five or more years to complete a degree, as well as the dwindling involvement in campus-based volunteer and extracurricular activities.

Janz believes that the Faculty of Arts should foster stronger ties with public and private sectors to remedy the problems of employee turnover due to the aging workforce, especially in the government civil service.

"If we want to showcase the strength of the liberal arts to the public, we need to work closer, as an institution and as a faculty, with the various people in government and industry," Janz said.

"If we want to make sure that the federal civil servants can be replaced by students here today, we need to make sure that we are developing these kinds of programs and work more with the faculty," he added, making reference to the various co-op and internship programs that are more

prevalent in the business, engineering, and science disciplines.

Dr Tim Antoniuk, an assistant professor in the U of A's industrial design program, discussed the importance of the arts and humanities disciplines in an increasingly global economy.

"We are in a period of massive change. There are shifts of power, shifts of economy, shifts in what's happening ecologically. Humanities is going to have to start to get involved because we are heading towards a lot of crises—not because of altruistic reasons or government or corporations wanting to do the right thing, but because such changes will be forced and necessary," said Antoniuk.

Bill Moore-Kilgannon, executive director of Public Interest Alberta and a U of A Arts alumnus, discussed the importance of improving the quality of postsecondary education, especially in the Faculty of Arts.

"Critical analysis and academic work is the foundation of our democracy. You need to learn how to learn as citizens and learn how to engage in that process, and that, to me, is the richness that you can get in the Faculty of Arts," said Moore-Kilgannon, who discussed a lack of government funding, citing that the province had both the lowest participation rate and lowest GDP spending rates on postsecondary education in Canada.

"You cannot have a quality student experience if you are spending all your time raising enough money to eat, pay the rent, and to pay your tuition. Fundamentally, we need to look at how we advocate around all these broader issues," Moore-Kilgannon said.

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Researchers takes up battle against 'bad cholesterol'

Professor Richard Lehner and his colleagues have managed to stop the secretion of the precursor to low-density lipids (LDL) in mice

YAW AMOAKOTU-TUFFOUR
News Writer

University of Alberta researcher Dr Richard Lehner and his team are quickly approaching the development of a new wonder drug to reduce levels of bad cholesterol in the human body.

While products already exist on the market that prevent the cellular uptake of cholesterol, Lehner, who serves as director of the U of A Group in Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids, and his team have gone a step further by identifying a technique that stops the secretion of the precursor to low-density lipids (LDL)—the so-called bad cholesterol.

Genetically manipulated mice were used as a testing standard to demonstrate the effectiveness of the newly identified inhibitor—and so far, he said, the results look very promising. Not only did these mice have lower levels of bad cholesterol, they

also had reduced levels of free fatty acids within their blood plasma and tissues.

"The uptake of free fatty acids can cause havoc in these cells and tissues and in certain cases may lead to insulin de-sensitivity," Lehner explained. To add to this feat, there have been no adverse symptoms observed in the mice.

However, Lehner added that the demographic at risk of cholesterol-related health conditions being broadened to include nearly all age groups. He warned of the risk of high cholesterol affecting even youth as diets high in fatty foods coupled with an inactive lifestyle lead to increased risk of obesity, diabetes, and potential heart disease.

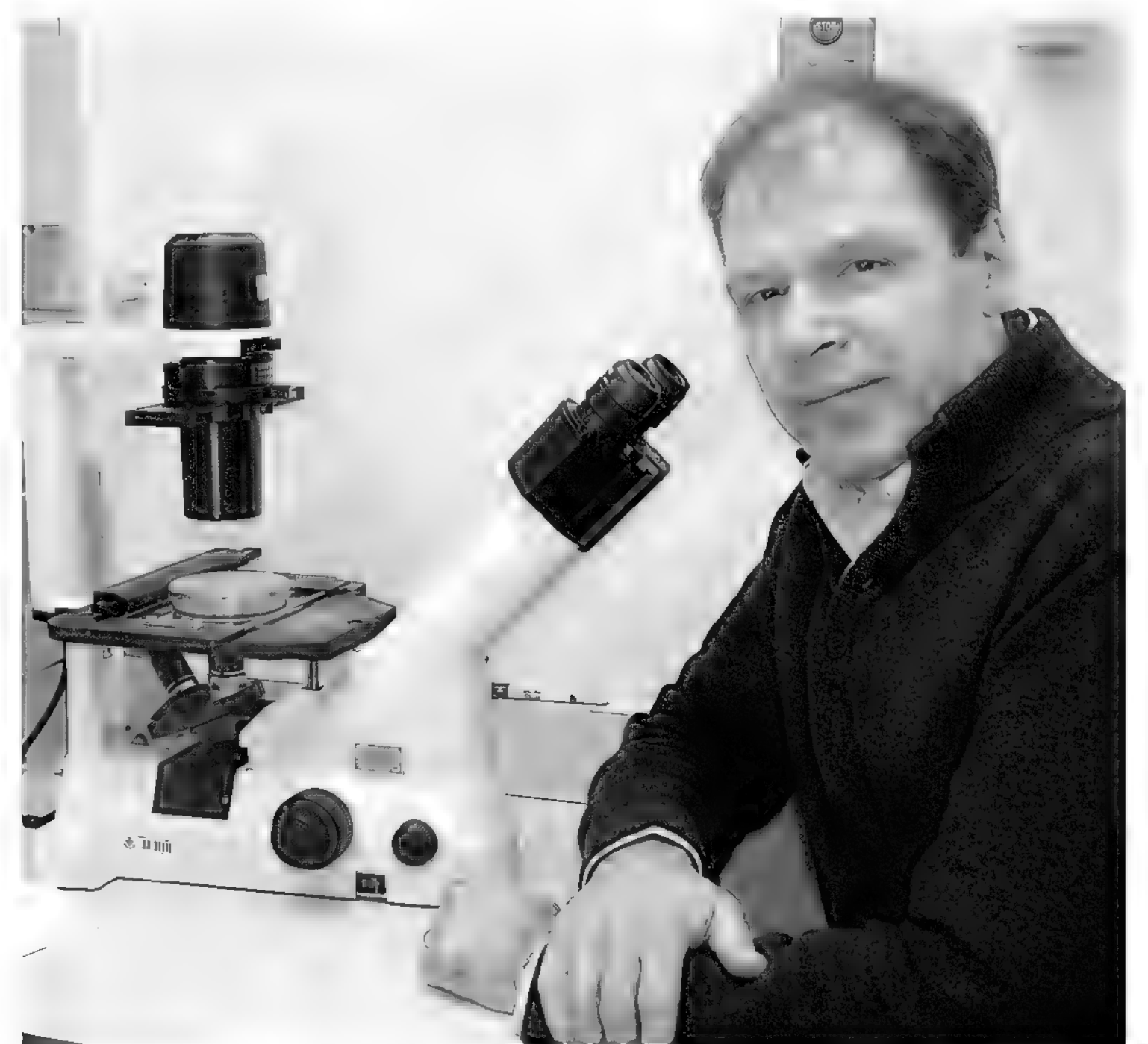
"Obesity is strongly associated with excessive triglyceride storage in tissues such as the liver, so all populations are affected, including children, by the increase in obesity."

The novelty of the breakthrough is

in the inhibitor's ability to treat the problem at the source by "inhibiting the secretions of the precursors to LDLs," and also in being able to deal with the host of peripheral symptoms related to fat storage such as insulin resistance and free fatty acid deposition.

Moreover, Lehrer noted that research is constantly being impacted by the overlapping nature of science, and he said that this recent success is the culmination of an ongoing collaborative effort with contributors from both the Molecular and Cellular Biology of Lipids Research Group (MCBL) and the new Alberta Diabetes Institute.

The development of any new drug is a long process. Lehner and his team of researchers have used an experimental drug on mice, but he stressed that "the future is to link up with companies to produce a drug and test whether it can be used in humans."



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

FIGHTING THE FAT Dr Lehner and his team are setting out to beat cholesterol.



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Ryerson student asked to return mistakenly awarded scholarship

ERIC LAM
The Eyeopener (Ryerson University)

TORONTO (CUP)—Ryerson University's financial assistance office awarded \$1350 to the wrong student in December, and now the University is forcing her to pay back the money whether she can afford it or not.

Chi Nguyen, a second-year journalism student, received a cheque in the mail for \$1350 in early December. Surprised, she went to the financial aid and cashier's office where she was told it was for a bursary and scholarship.

Chi said she went and asked to make sure the money was hers, "I didn't take it blindly." But on 14 January, she received an email from Wendy Peters, a department manager with Ryerson's School of Journalism. The email informed her that the money was awarded mistakenly and that the amount had been charged to her student account.

Peters also said that the financial assistance office would not pay Mai Nguyen, the rightful recipient of the

award, until Chi Nguyen came up with the \$1350.

"I don't want to pay for their mistake," Nguyen said. "It's a guilt trip, you know? Like they want me to feel bad and pay for their mistake."

"I feel sorry for the girl, and I hope she gets her money right now, too," she added. "It's not fair she has to wait for the money to come from me."

"I don't want to pay for their mistake."

CHI NGUYEN
RYERSON UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

However, it seems that Mai Nguyen doesn't actually need to wait for Chi Nguyen before she can receive her bursary.

"They didn't say it was a mistake," Mai said. "They said they'd send a cheque to my address in ten days."

Mai said that she was never told about the conditions imposed on the other Nguyen, and only found out

when the Eyeopener informed her.

Chi said that she was told her OSAP money could be used to cover the total, until she told them the \$790 she received for the winter term couldn't cover the difference. She now owes the school almost \$3000 (including approximately \$1500 in tuition)—an amount she can't pay.

Chi said that Peters had suggested that a mistaken student ID number led to the error.

Nora Loreto, President of the Ryerson University Students' Union, doesn't think that Chi should have to pay back the money.

"It's unbelievable when a university messes up to this extent, messes up our students' lives in this way," Loreto said.

Loreto, who called for the university to let both students keep the money, said she had never seen something like this in her time at the school.

"It's crazy," she said. "Students shouldn't be forced to correct mistakes made by administration."

Faculty strike, lockout keeps classes closed

New Brunswick enlists external mediator to help settle ongoing dispute at St Thomas University that's kept students from beginning their winter term

NICK MOORE
CUP Supplements Bureau Chief

FREDERICTON (CUP)—As Fredericton's St Thomas University goes into its third week of a faculty lockout and second week of a strike, a new mediator appointed by the province is facing pressure to get students back into their classrooms.

The University's faculty union requested a new mediator on 14 January. Ed Doherty, New Brunswick Minister of Postsecondary Education, Training, and Labour, approved the request shortly thereafter and appointed Milton Veniot to the post.

Veniot joins the bargaining table as a well-established labour lawyer from Nova Scotia. He has mediated a number of similar disputes in the past, including Cape Breton University, Dalhousie University, the University of Prince Edward Island, and, most recently, Acadia University.

Dawn Morgan, executive member at large of the faculty union at St Thomas University, said the union wanted a fresh set of eyes on the dispute, which she felt had stalled.

"We just felt that the process had become completely bogged down and that external assistance was required,"

she said.

"One of the things about external mediators is that it brings in someone different, someone who has not been involved in the whole long haul here in the last eleven months. They bring different perspectives and fresh approaches, and I think that's what needed to get the parties working together here."

"We just felt that the process had become completely bogged down and that external assistance was required."

DAWN MORGAN
FACULTY UNION MEMBER

The faculty union asked the administration to join them in their request but they declined. Faculty have been without a contract since July 2007, and negotiations have been ongoing for the last eleven months, with wages and workload being the main issues.

St Thomas University spokesperson Jeffrey Carleton said the administration

was initially concerned about applying to find a new mediator because there was a fear it would take too much time.

Carleton also said that the administration was reluctant to stop negotiating because they felt both sides were starting to get things accomplished.

"We began negotiations on Monday, and we felt that we were beginning to make some progress that afternoon and evening. We had really good discussions on limited-term appointments, sabbaticals, and some on compensation."

Carleton also said the administration didn't wish to give support to the application because they didn't have problems with the mediator who was provincially appointed, claiming he was acting fairly to both sides.

"The mediator that was working on the file was neutral, he was professional, and he was the same mediator that had successfully completed a contract with us in 2005," he said.

With a new mediator in place, both sides say they're ready to go forward in finding a deal, and until such a deal is found, classes at St Thomas have been canceled indefinitely—leaving 2500 STU students who still haven't begun their second semester.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

PARTNERSHIP BATTLES STUDENT DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE

VICTORIA (CUP)—A three-way partnership in British Columbia is trying to combat rising student stress levels and suicide rates through community groups and education programs.

Camosun College, the University of Victoria, and the University of British Columbia have joined with the Need Crisis and Information Line to form the Student Prevention Action Group. The group's organizers hope to support students, rather than simply discuss the issues.

"UVic, UBC, and Camosun have all had their own tragedies. Every campus in North America has had their problems," said Camosun's international student councillor Brian Herron. "We want to prevent these tragedies from happening while also promoting wellness and helping students to feel connected."

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among youth in Canada. According to Statistics Canada, 480 people between 15 and 24 committed suicide in 2004.

Jonny Morris, a Child and Youth Care Education graduate from the U of V, proposed the idea of a student prevention interest group; Jennifer White, a child care professor also from U of V, took on the project and gave it its current name.

Aware that broad announcement

banners won't tempt students to reveal their innermost feelings to a group of strangers, the group hopes that by involving students they'll be able to build crucial peer connections and offer support.

The group plans to work educating communities about the alarming rise in the youth suicide rates and how to identify warning signs.

Herron believes inter-campus involvement is an opportunity to examine various approaches to combating the issue.


"Students know better than we do how to reach those that are isolated on campus," Herron said. "The last thing they need is for us to be telling them what's right and wrong."

—Kelly Marion, Nexus (Camosun College)

Students' Union elections are just around the corner, and you know what that means: an opportunity to interview this year's joke candidates in person.

Come to Gateway News meetings on Fridays at 3pm in 3-04 SUB, and find out how you can get the scoop on which varieties of houseplants will be vying for your attention.

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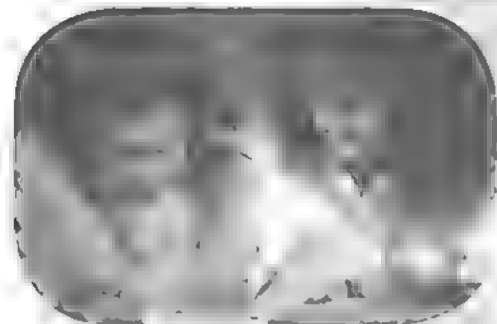
The Gateway Student Journalism Society is seeking one student-at-large member for its board of directors effective immediately. Applicants should be undergraduate students who are not members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, the University Board of Governors, or the University Senate.

The Gateway Student Journalism Society Board of Directors meets approximately once per month and is responsible for the overall direction of the society, but not for any element of the editorial content of the Gateway.

Applications should be sent to Adam Gaumont, the Gateway Editor-in-Chief, at eic@gateway.ualberta.ca on or before January 24.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Board of Directors at gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca or visit <http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj/>

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Green city only good for the rich

WASTE-FREE, ENERGY-EFFICIENT, AND CARBON-neutral are all terms thrown about by environmentalists to describe ideal urban development, and the recently unveiled plans for Masdar City incorporate all of those buzzwords.

The community, planned for construction in Abu Dhabi, promises to include natural air circulation, a high-efficiency desalination plant, and an extensive public transit system that precludes the use of automobiles within city limits. It's being touted as being a shining example of man living in harmony with nature.

Why, then, is this proposed green city, designed by a renowned British firm, being built in one of the most desolate places on earth? Consider some of the United Arab Emirates' other megaprojects: historically, they haven't hesitated to give Mother Nature the finger when it comes to building yet another astoundingly expensive artificial island resort. And that's exactly why this city is being built where it is: the desire for rich oil tycoons to assuage their collective consciences and get on the hippest new trend of the 21st century.

Sustainable development is never carried out the way it ought to be, and while it's not sexy to talk about primary energy sources, chicks are more likely to dig you if you drive a hybrid.

In a similar vein, the Century Park community now under construction in the hole that once was Heritage Mall is sometimes cited as an example of environmentally conscious living. It's a great example of transit-oriented development, a definite step in the right direction—and it also stands in contrast to the clusterfuck that is the rest of south Edmonton.

The problem, then, is in the approach: Century Park is a luxury resort, with units selling in the half-million-dollar range. This isn't about living sustainably—it's about impressing one's friends.

Sustainable development isn't supposed to be only for the rich and only because it's sexy. It's about substituting our use of fossil fuels with renewables such as wind and solar with a minimum of societal change. Selling expensive condos to those with a poor grasp of such issues is a good way to make money and grab a spot on the evening news, but it does nothing to solve the problem in a meaningful way.

Masdar City promises to do it right: completely environmentally neutral development. Undoubtedly, it will be an impressive example of alternative energy technology and urban design. But that's also part of the problem: Masdar is, in spirit, much more of a planned community than it is a city—it's an example of precision engineering at a high price.

Designing a city from the ground up and incorporating an extensive public transit system is trivial. What's hard is incorporating sustainable technology into our lives as we live them now. With any luck, the technology and lessons from the giant science project that is Masdar will make their way into the real cities we live in.

As the plan stands right now, there are still many questions. Will Masdar be able to handle growth? Will it have vibrant entertainment and cultural districts? Cities are very much living things, growing naturally over time and developing a unique personality. The risk exists for Masdar to be a Frankenstein of sorts, meticulously constructed and shocked to life, but remaining in many senses dead, serving purely as a corporate hub with attached residences—on the opposite end of the spectrum from the work camps in Fort McMurray, but roughly the same idea. Not exactly good symbolism for our sustainable future.

MIKE OTTO
Photo Editor

Dirt off our shoulders

The dance-off was rigged.
CUP won't follow its own laws.
Fuck the Ubyssy.

PAUL OWEN
Managing Editor



CONAL PIERSE

LETTERS

Le deserves better, Mastel

We were very disappointed to read Jon Mastel's Opinion piece "Cutting Council seats will only serve to silence student voices" in the 17 January edition of the *Gateway*.

Jon frequently visits our office, reads our reports, and has even proxied on Council, which would leave us to believe that he possesses a first-hand knowledge of the hard work that Chris Le has done this year. You can imagine our surprise when we read Jon's accusations that Chris does nothing more than make paperclip animals and supervise staff.

Chris has spearheaded initiatives regarding the University Health Centre, the ongoing implementation of the U-Pass, and Aramark food services on campus. Furthermore, he has effectively made a number of simple improvements, such as providing more microwaves for students.

Chris documents these activities on his exec page—is fact checking a little too much to expect in the pages of the *Gateway*? Jon took one sarcastic comment and used it to debase the hard work Chris has done on behalf of students all year.

Jon Mastel needs to do the right thing and issue an apology to Chris Le for the mischaracterization of Chris' comments and thereby his efforts as a member of our executive this year.

MICHAEL JANZ
SU President
STEVEN DOLLANSKY
VP (External)
EAMMON GAMBLE
VP (Operations & Finance)

VPSL much more than a simple paperclip artist

Mastel's criticism of reducing the size of Students' Council involved a series of personal assessments of several members of the SU Executive Committee. Being that I'm no longer a councillor and was not in attendance at this meeting, I don't purport to know the rationale for most of these comments and their relevancy to the issue at hand, but I do take exception to the attack on VP (Student Life) Chris Le.

The author claims that Le has admitted to doing nothing outside of major events but "make paperclip animals." I suspect that most individuals would realize that this is an attempt at humour, as opposed to a serious declaration. The author further insinuates that the role of VP (Student Life) involves nothing but overseeing the work of other staff. This is not only a drastic misrepresentation of the portfolio, but also a very poor assessment of the diligence with which Le approaches his work.

The Student Life portfolio is focused on improving the undergraduate student experience outside of the classroom, and involves some of the most relevant activities of the SU to its members. Le has been an active component of this executive's advocacy efforts, and is a strong representative of students on the numerous University councils and committees of which he is a member. He has helped to enhance the capacity of student services—most notably Student Group Services—by working toward the creation of the first-ever Student Group Summit. He has also

introduced a more practical element to solving some perennial resource shortages on campus—like microwaves.

Le is an extremely committed executive officer, and being that I highly value student life in my university experience, I feel that the SU and its membership have benefited from his serving in elected office. Come on, he even grew a moustache.

JUSTIN KEHOE
Science IV
VPSL 2005/06

More seats makes for a more democratic council

I'm glad to see that the *Gateway* has decided that the question of how many seats there are in Students' Council is an issue worth sharing with the student body.

Mr Mastel suggests "the number of councillors doesn't have any bearing on their efficiency or lack thereof." He goes on to suggest that these changes can only make the Executive stronger. With respect, I don't think either of those statements are accurate.

If the number of votes needed to support an executive decision drops from 22 to 17, so does the number of votes required to defeat it. Any councillor who disagrees need only convince 16 others (as opposed to 21) that they're correct. So councillors are made stronger also.

As for the lack of bearing on efficiency, organization behaviour studies have suggested that the net effectiveness of a deliberative body falls after the size of the body exceeds twelve.

Now, none of this is to say that the proposal is necessarily good. The Students' Council must ask itself whether there's a benefit to be gained from this that is sufficient to justify the loss in representation.

JASON MORRIS
Law I

Gateway sucker-punched mixed martial arts

As an avid fan of combat sports, I was perturbed to see the misinformation being peddled as fact by Derek Bates in his asinine commentary entitled "No art in mixed martial arts" (17 January). To put it bluntly, Mr Bates doesn't have a clue when it comes to mixed martial arts and has an overly romanticized view of boxing (also a subject which he demonstrates zero knowledge about).

In his criticism of MMA, Derek makes use of certain intangible buzz words such as dignity, tradition, honour, and respect. He insists that these are integral parts of classic combat sports and that MMA has removed these to produce a "ruthless bloodbath." Still, he fails to offer any explanation as to how the combination of striking and grappling martial arts has resulted in a loss of these so-called pillars of sport, or even provide any proof that this is actually the case.

Furthermore, he decries MMA as taking place in a "rule-free environment." That's an utter falsehood and demonstrates that the author has neither researched nor fact checked his poorly conceived article.

PLEASE SEE **LETTERS** ♦ PAGE 9

A course not worth staying

The mission in Afghanistan can't be won by NATO forces; we need to relinquish control to local forces so that we're no longer viewed as agents of colonialism



HASNAIN
KAHN

‘Finish the job’ seems to be the phrase of choice for those who want to maintain the current Canadian troop levels in Afghanistan or even increase them. It’s a view that has had newfound support after a report on Afghanistan by an independent commission headed by former Liberal deputy prime minister John Manley was released on Tuesday.

However, “finishing the job”—a phrase coined by our southern neighbours for defending their continued failures in Iraq—completely ignores the reality on the ground in Afghanistan. The fact of the matter is that the military can’t, and shouldn’t, attempt to finish this job. Pakistan’s Musharraf has famously and rightly stated that guerillas survive and succeed only when they have the support of the public—and the Taliban still certainly have it.

I don’t claim to be an expert on Afghanistan, but I’m familiar with some of its history and cultural nuances—especially that of the ethnic Pashtuns, of which the so-called “Taliban” are mostly comprised.

As far as culture is concerned, the Pashtuns have never subjugated themselves to foreign aggressors. Death or victory are the only choices—never submission.

This is a lesson that British colonial forces learned the hard way.

Similarly, before NATO made efforts to “liberate” Afghanistan, the former Soviet Union made a similar attempt and lost big—according to official reports, around 15 000 troops died in just nine years. During that time, their forces were slowly bled dry until the Soviet people eventually grew tired of it.

The biggest mistake the West has made in Afghanistan is that they have been assessing the situation in black-and-white terms—an attitude that has removed the possibility of opening a dialogue or compromising.

The biggest mistake the West has made in Afghanistan is that they have been assessing the situation in black-and-white terms—an attitude that has removed the possibility of opening a dialogue or compromising. Ever since the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan, the Taliban have gained numbers, momentum, and the will to fight. Their goal is to purify their land of invaders, and so long as we remain their will won’t falter.

Whereas the loss of each Canadian soldier is one too many, on the other side of the battleground, every death is martyrdom for the sake of the fatherland—and clearly there’s no shortage of those wishing to achieve such status.

In the backdrop to this all, the same Pakistani Army that gave birth to the earliest fighters of this movement is now fighting them across the border in their own country. The West has continued support of a dictator whose army consists of huge chunks of Pashtuns, so it isn’t any wonder then that, more often than not, the Pakistan Army troops have preferred to lay down their arms rather than fight their Muslim brothers.

General Musharraf has also arbitrarily pushed Pakistan towards liberal reforms reminiscent of pre-Islamic-Revolution-era Iran. While such changes may have a positive intent, they have been implemented too far and too fast in a country that is not yet ready. The vast majority of the Pakistani people have viewed them as too much freedom, and as a result, the people have naturally appreciated the Taliban’s role in both Pakistan and Afghanistan—perhaps as a necessary evil—as it supposedly preserves the Islamic values of modesty and conservatism. So the wall-chalking appearing in the heart of Islamabad wishing the Taliban good luck shouldn’t come as a surprise.

We must realize that though we view the Taliban as having imposed their will on the people, it is, in fact, the Western nations that the Afghani people see as the party attempting to force their way.

Only when Western forces cease to be seen as agents of colonialism—and when Kabul and Islamabad are no longer viewed as extensions of Washington—will the Taliban lose the support of the people and crumble.

We all have to share the roads—something you inattentive cyclists need to remember



KYLE
CHISHOLM

It’s a cold and placid morning. The sun slowly creeps over the horizon and taunts my bleary eyes, etched with throbbing red veins from a night of whiskey-soaked debauchery. I’m the undergraduate everyman, simply too hung over and preoccupied with printing off notes before a gruelling 9am class to realize that daring bicyclists patiently await a chance to tempt fate and challenge my reflexes as I make my way to campus.

That’s right; I’m driving down 112 Street in the general direction of HUB mall.

I have no problems with cyclists, or with any of the reasons one would choose that form of transport (such as health, cost-effectiveness, and eco-friendliness). However, I do have a problem with those same people that believe being on a bike gives them some sort of greater visibility or exemption from the rules of the road.

More often than not, the bicyclists

“I have no problems with cyclists, or with any of the reasons one would choose that form of transport (such as health, cost-effectiveness, and eco-friendliness). However, I do have a problem with those that believe being on a bike gives them some sort of greater visibility or exemption from the rules of the road.”

I see cyclists around campus completely fail to give drivers any kind of warning about the lane changes or turns that they’re going to make. This really inhibits a driver’s ability to anticipate and respond to a cyclist’s actions—making it, in turn, harder for them to prevent their bumpers from making back-end love to some unfortunate’s Norco in the toe-to-tit rush of Monday morning traffic.

The cruel injustice here is that the University area is laden with clearly marked bicycle paths designed to minimize the interference with vehicular traffic and danger to cyclists. These pathways provide an extremely convenient way of getting around, and in many circumstances are faster than taking conventional heavy-traffic routes.

To me, these seem like a much better choice, especially in winter. In such slick road conditions, I don’t know how some cyclists manage not to slip under the hungry tires of a meandering Volkswagen.

The dangers of travel on main thoroughfares are compounded by the fact that there just simply isn’t any space for bicycles. All too often, I’ve seen cars fly by within inches of a cyclist, either eliciting colourful language or, more alarmingly, no response at all. Many of these people aren’t wearing helmets either though; perhaps their careless behaviour is due to having been struck on their bare noggin on previous occasions.

So please, cyclists, next time you feel the urge to ride down those main roads at the annoyance of motorists everywhere, consider the alternative options that will get you to your destination in comparable time. Campus is designed with a large volume of bicycle traffic in mind, so make use of the infrastructure.

At the very least, give drivers some warning before making erratic moves and try to be more conscious of the motorists around you, because they’re not necessarily paying any attention either.

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Levant vs AHRCC: where to draw the line on free speech?

If we silence him, then we threaten our right to speak our minds



CODY
CIVIERO

point

Two years ago, the now-defunct *Western Standard* magazine republished the infamous Danish Muhammad cartoons, an act that offended an imam by the name of Syed Soharwardy. He subsequently went to the Calgary police and demanded that publisher Ezra Levant be arrested; however, when his complaint was ignored, he brought his grievances to the "Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission" (AHRCC). And for the last two years, Levant has been relentlessly pursued by government lackeys while taxpayers have footed the complainant's bill.

On 11 January, Levant was interrogated by a "human rights officer" for an hour and a half, during which time he was asked what his intent was in publishing the cartoons. But intent doesn't matter: the images speak for themselves, and this question was just fishing for conviction on the basis of thought-crime. And though I'm loath to use the term "Orwellian," never have I seen a more appropriate time for it.

Regardless of whether or not such tactics are underhanded, Levant will likely lose the case. The kangaroo court that is the AHRCC has a 100-per-cent conviction rate. Previously successful complainants include a male hairdressing student who was called a "loser" by female colleagues and a cook fired for having hepatitis C.

Ridiculous cases are set up to favour the complainant by default because the AHRC is based on a presumption of guilt rather than innocence, and when you combine this with

the lack of any financial or legal responsibility for the accuser, it becomes the perfect recourse for litigious and spiteful people who have little legal bearing to carry out their personal vendettas. Even if one was to miraculously succeed in defending himself against the AHRCC, the financial cost and stress brought on by this makes the process itself a form of punishment.

Albertans should be watching the case with great concern. A conviction would open a huge can of legal worms as there's no logical basis for the complaint, so there's nowhere to draw the line. Regardless of whether one thinks that the cartoons were in poor taste, we can't compromise our freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

In a free society, not only can we expect to be offended from time to time, but we have the moral responsibility to accept it when it happens.

In a free society, not only can we expect to be offended from time to time, but we have the moral responsibility to accept it when it happens. To name a very relevant example, I'm offended by Soharwardy's public endorsement of sharia law to govern Canada. Yes, I'm affronted by such a suggestion, but I won't run crying to the thought police. In a truly free country, any idiot has the right to say whatever dumb-ass thing he wants. Exceptions can be made for libel or national security purposes—but not just because someone's precious feelings are hurt. You aren't required to respect or pay attention to anyone's beliefs, but you can't silence them with legal bullying.

If you've got nothing good to say, exercise restraint and shut up



SARAH
STEAD

counterpoint

Last February, Ezra Levant made a choice. He chose to reprint some controversial political cartoons depicting the Islamic prophet Muhammad in what some Muslims felt was a defamatory manner. Now, following Soharwardy's complaint, he's facing an inquiry by the AHRCC, which he feels is an unfair act of censorship and against his "fundamental human rights."

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, which Levant uses as a crutch to support his rights to free speech, also includes the right to freedom of religion, including Islam.

Initially, I was inclined to agree with Levant, but after seeing the cartoons, reading posts he made on his website in recent days, and watching video of his hearing, I've changed my stance.

In the video clips—which Levant has posted on YouTube—he announces immediately that he's only appearing before the AHRCC as a form of protest and that publishing the comics was "the proudest moment of [his] public life." Levant then proceeds to go on a rant, calling the Commission a "joke" and referring to it as "a dump for the junk that gets rejected from the real legal system."

Though I support free speech, I also feel that freedoms come with responsibilities. Claiming that you have a right to speak your mind isn't a golden ticket to, as Levant eloquently put it, "publish whatever the hell I want." If Levant has a right to publish whatever he sees fit, then people who are offended by it have a right to complain.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, which Levant uses as a crutch to support his rights to free speech, also includes the right to freedom of religion, including Islam. The freedom to religion includes the right to not be discriminated against on the basis of one's religion. If Levant had published comics that were misogynist, racist, or homophobic, he would be charged with discrimination—trivializing an already marginalized and misunderstood religion shouldn't make him a hero.

When asked by the AHRCC if he was aware that the comics could be exposing Muslims to "further contempt and hatred," he stated that the cartoons weren't to blame. Rather, it was the "radical Muslims who blow things up." He then proceeded to cite an example of an Edmonton synagogue that was fire-bombed by "a dumb fascist Muslim Arab from Jordan." He also accuses Soharwardy of being a misogynist.

It's also worth noting that the man who lodged the formal complaint against Levant is facing his own inquiry by the AHRCC on accusations that he mistreated and humiliated women in a Mosque. Levant has claimed that he doesn't wish success to these women, however, stating that "all of [his] arguments against the commission apply to their complaint as much as it applies to Soharwardy's complaint against [his] magazine."

Levant may have the right to free speech, but this doesn't trump any Muslim's right to freedom of religion. As it stands, Levant is only facing an inquiry right now. The outcome may or may not be in his favour, but he should at least be cooperative with the AHRCC.

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Unhealthy condiments won't replace the spices in my heart

KIRK
ZEMBAL

"Get your average retiree to make you a meal and they'll bust out the herbs and spices and cook you up a nice tasty meal. Get your average student to cook you a meal and they'll try and see how many sauces they can put on it. You'll be lucky if they even own salt and pepper, let alone a spice rack."

Did you know that just a single tablespoon of ranch dressing typically contains close to 15 per cent of your daily intake of fat? Now think about how much ranch is required to dress a salad, douse a chicken wing, or properly immerse a slice of pizza. Really, this now-common act of dipping pizza into ranch dressing—known lovingly as "arterial suicide"—ranks right up there in gut-busting infamy with Montreal's legendary after-pub delicacy "poutine sur le hot-dog"—which I'm sure has caused plenty of *crise cardiaques* in its day.

Now, with even the renowned and respected glutton Homer J Simpson trumpeting ranch dip as his food of choice over donuts, it's clear that we're in the midst of a culinary revolution. Lately, I've seen gastronomic horrors ranging from cream cheese on hotdogs to side orders of McChicken sauce to sit-down restaurants offering sauces to dip sandwiches and burgers into—and even ketchup on poutine.

I'm hardly one to talk, as I will often refuse to indulge my lovers' mildly creepy 9 1/2 Weeks fantasies without the addition of some kind of delicious condiment. And yes, I do agree that greasy foods often

need a little extra fat to make them palatable, but the overriding fact is that condiments are killing the kids. Members of what I dub the "Ranch Dip Generation"—which includes us—have been brought up to suckle the delicious elixirs from the teat of moguls such as Kraft and Heinz without any regard as to the negative effects that they're having on our health.

Though this may sound like I'm being alarmist, and you might think that we've been eating condiments forever without any ill-effects, this ignores the fact that I'm right and you're wrong.

Fat-bombs like ranch haven't been around forever. First sold commercially as packets of seasoning to be mixed with buttermilk in 1954 on—you guessed it—a ranch near Santa Barbara, California, ranch dressing didn't take off until 1983 when Clorox, the maker of bleach and Pine-Sol, engineered a formula that enabled it to be shelf-stable.

By 1992, it had become the most popular dressing in both Canada and the US. And I don't think it's any coincidence that the rising obesity rates over the past 20 years nicely coincide with the rise in ranch dressing production.

Get your average retiree to make you a meal, and they'll bust out the herbs and spices and cook you up a nice tasty meal. Get your average student to cook you a meal, and they'll try and see how many sauces they can put on it. You'll be lucky if they even own salt and pepper, let alone a spice rack.

We've collectively lost the ability to choose and cook with a multitude of spices and have lazily substituted condiments in their stead.

And if you look in the average bachelor's fridge, chances are, beer and condiments are all you get. Eating out is, if possible, even worse when you're trying to eat healthy, as even Subway salads come with a packet of dressing that contains close to 50 per cent of your body's daily fat requirements.

Though it may seem hopeless, we can make a difference. It's as simple as only putting one kind of sauce on your sub, adding a few spices to meals, remembering that pizza still tasted good before it came with a plethora of dipping sauces, and just generally eating meals without all the saucy drama. Or at the very least switch to the low-fat ranch dip if you feel the need to spice up your love life.

LETTERS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

It's disappointing to see that the *Gateway's* journalists ignore facts in order to promote their own brand of truth.

Almost as egregious is Bates' completely rosy-eyed view of boxing. Make no mistake about it, boxing is a brutal sport—all combat sports generally are. Bates can't make the argument that MMA is a brutal bloodbath and then turn around to say that boxing is a "fantastic sport."

The "sweet science" moniker and my love for the competition aside, boxing is a dangerous and sometimes fatal sport that involves slamming your fists into someone's skull for up to twelve rounds in an effort to render your opponent unconscious (ironically enough, Bates goes on to bemoan that "glorifying and rewarding the best way to make someone else bleed or faint is a complete departure from what martial arts are all about" while simultaneously praising boxing and ignoring the obvious contradictions in his own argument).

Finally, I hate to break it to you Derek, but physical endurance, strategy, and months training are elements found in most combat sports (including MMA). They aren't exclusive to pugilism, and anyone who has ever trained in either sport could tell you that.

And while I found the postulation that "just a strong arm" is needed to be successful in MMA humorous (it certainly could be helpful, I mean, who wouldn't want a strong arm?), I'd challenge anyone to find a successful mixed martial artist who possessed only that quality. Please stop writing about things you know nothing about.

BARRY LOUITT
Sciences IV

Sudoku solutions prove to be elusive

Me and my friends spent three hours trying to figure out the 15 January edition's sudoku puzzles.

We got really confused, and we wanted to find the solution to the puzzle. However, when we went to the website advertised, www.sudoku.com to find the solution, the *Gateway* wasn't there in the list of publications. We would really, really, really like to find the answer to the puzzle because, frankly, we spend a lot of time at school and it's kind of depressing, so this solution would be a ray of sunshine in our sad, sad lives.

JEN & AUDREY
Sudoku Enthusiasts I

Editors' note: when you go to the website to find the answer, choose Canadian University Press from the publications pull-down menu.

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Finally, stop putting words in all capitals for emphasis. If you are seven-exclamation-points excited, you need to lay off the joe for a little bit and calm the heck down.

THE BURLAP SACK

This sack-beating goes out to all of the individuals out there who insist on putting two spaces after a period when they type.

Unless you are clacking away on a typewriter in the 1930s talking about the rat-a-tat-tat of a tommy gun, there's absolutely no reason for you to do this, and your abuse of the spacebar is a waste of paper. And though it might be a stretch, I'm going to go ahead and blame you for deforestation.

I don't care if that's how you were taught to type; your teacher was fucking wrong, and it's time for you to leave the typographical stone age behind you.

And to all current and prospective teachers out there, if I catch word of you teaching your young, impressionable students such a useless technique, I'm going to confiscate your spacebar, replace it with a fucking "q," and then break your metre stick just for good measure (though I suppose you wouldn't really be able to do much measuring with it afterwards).

So into the sack with all of you, and while you're all crammed together, struggling to breathe, I hope you'll come to appreciate the luxury that is extra space.

CONAL PIERSE

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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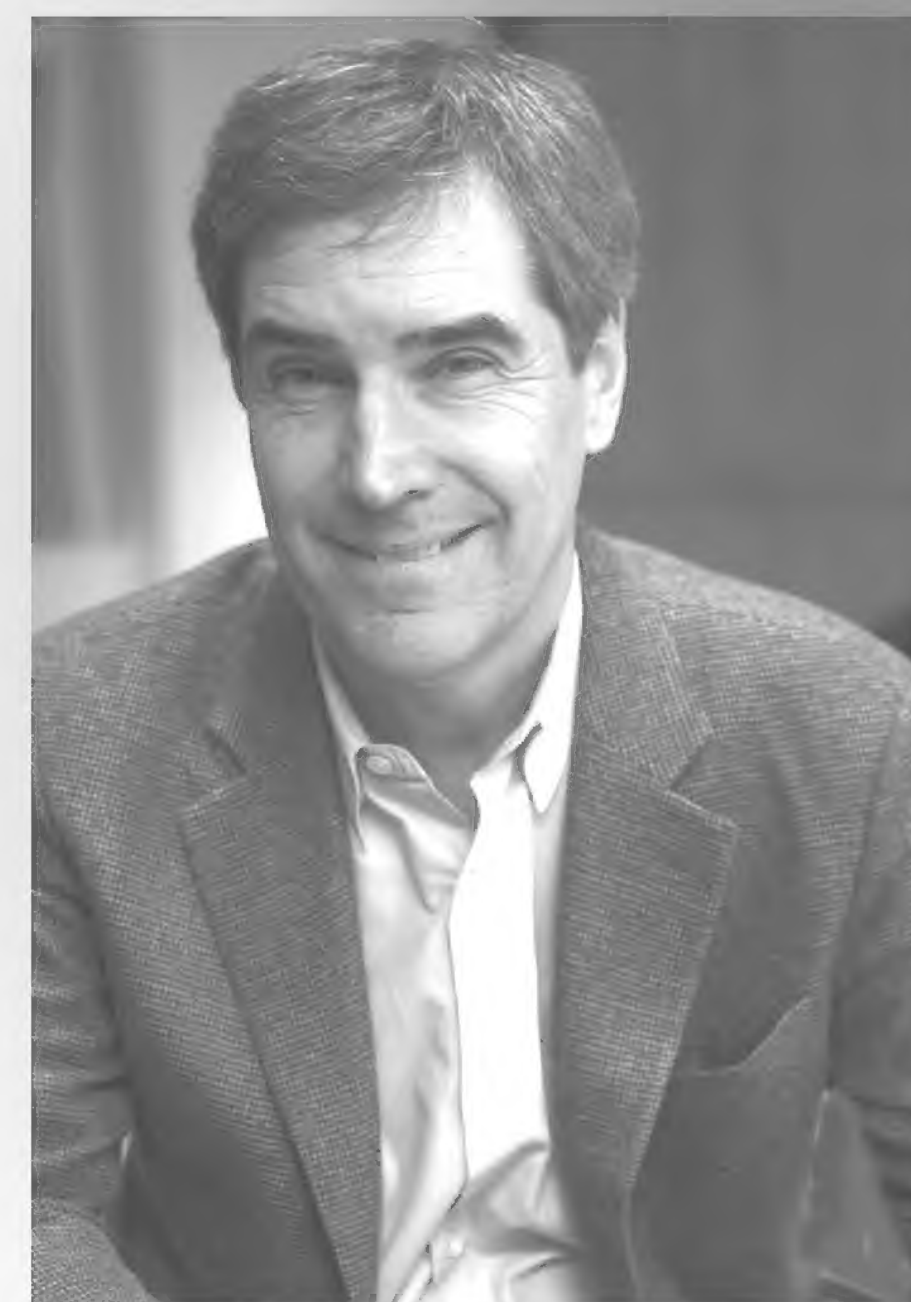
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